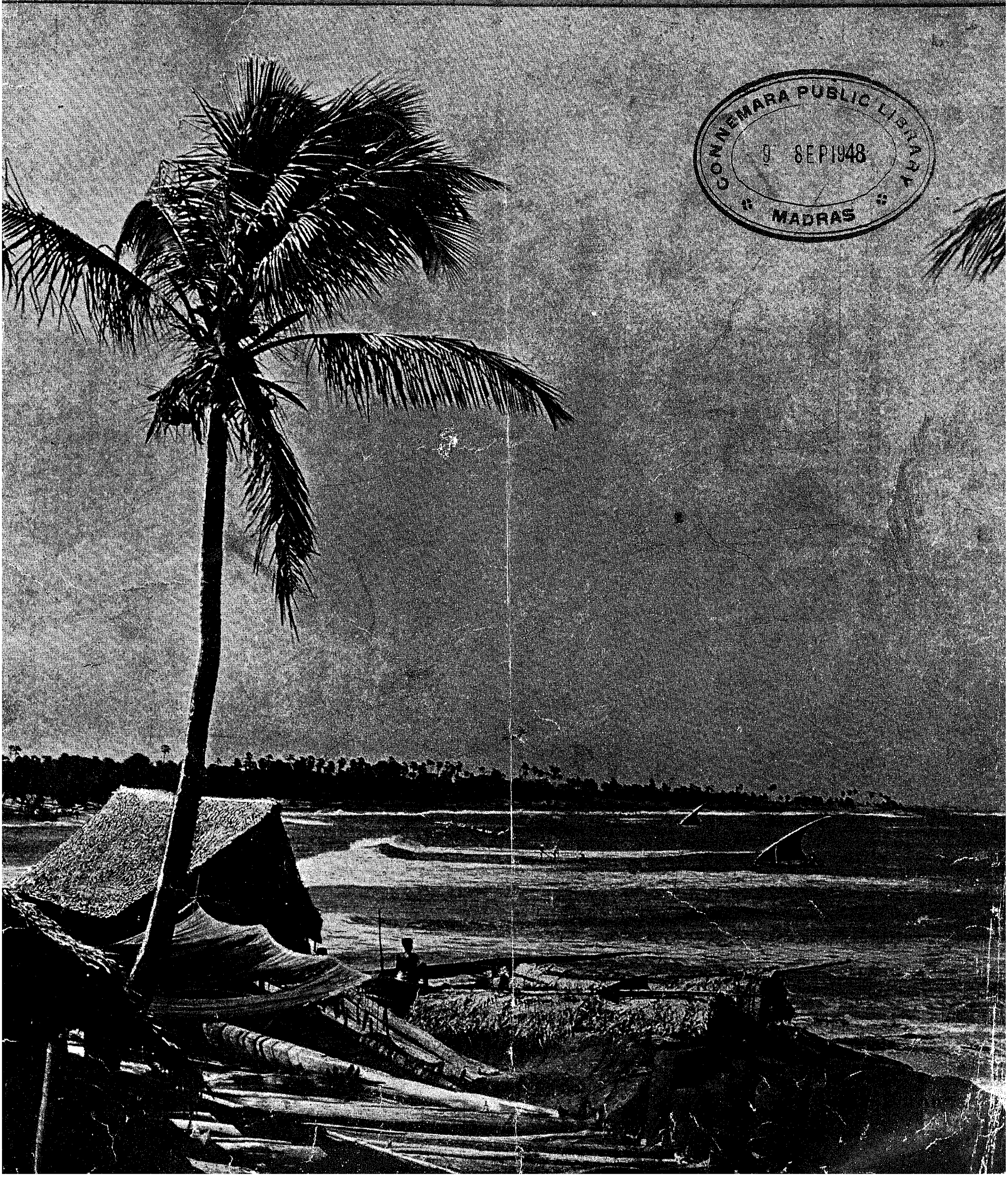
MADRAS INFORMATION

VOL. II MADRAS, 1st SEPTEMBER 1948 NO. 16



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Members and Staff of the Madras Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee

First Row—Sitting (left to right) : *Sri C. S. Krishnaswami Ayyangar, Assistant Secretary, Sri V. Ponnuswami Pillai, Member, Sri T. K. Duraiswami Ayyar, Member, Sri M. Bapineedu, M.L.A., Member, Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Member, Constituent Assembly), Chairman, Sri L. Venkatakrishna Ayyar, Member, Sri K. P. Krishnan Nayar, Member, Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao, M.L.C., Member, Mr. Clarence O. Coorey, Secretary.*

CONNEMARA ... 9 SEP 1948 MADRAS

Madras Information

Published every fortnight by the Director of Information and Publicity
Fort St. George

Vol. II, No. 16 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" September 1, 1948

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Medium of Instruction

The Government of India have defined their policy regarding the medium of instruction in educational institutions. A Resolution on the subject, says: The principle that a child should be instructed during the early stage of his education through the medium of the mother-tongue has been accepted by the Government. All educationists agree that any departure from this principle is bound to be harmful to the child and therefore to the interests of society.

Unfortunately the application of this educationally sound principle in practice raises some difficulties. One question is what is to be considered as the mother-tongue through which education has to be imparted. As is well-known in every region, Province and State in India, a number of dialects are spoken. Children learn dialects at home; are they to be all adopted as media of education? Unfortunately their number is large and most of them are without literature and therefore without necessary pabulum to nourish education. There are, however, about dozen languages more or less developed, which possess literatures and which seem to be marked out to become such media.

Here a second difficulty arises. Although in some Provinces one of these languages is predominant, in others speakers of two, three or four of them live together, and there is hardly a Province in which besides a principal language there are not considerable number of inhabitants speaking other languages.

In the Madras Province four principal languages are used, viz., Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kanarese and in the City of Madras there are numerous speakers of both Telugu and Tamil. Similarly in the Bombay Province there are Marathi, Gujerati and Kanarese speaking people, and in the City of Bombay a mixed population of Marathi, Gujarati, Urdu and Hindi speakers. In Bihar and United Provinces there are certain districts and cities where along with Hindi, Bengali is spoken by many. Calcutta again is a sort of a cosmopolitan town with a mixed population speaking a number of languages. In Orissa, Oriya is the main language but in some parts Telugu is used. The Central Provinces have large areas of Marathi, and Hindi speaking inhabitants. Nagpur is a city of mixed speakers of Hindi and Marathi. East Punjab has two languages—Hindi and Punjabi.

Conditions like these make it impossible for any State or Province to adopt any single language as the medium of instruction. An attempt to adopt one language in a Province where groups of people speaking different languages reside and to impose it on all is bound to lead to discontent and bitterness. It will affect inter-Provincial relations and set up vicious circles of retaliation. Provincialism will grow and Indian nationalism will suffer.

The history of European countries is a warning. England sought to impose English on Ireland, Germany, German on Poles, Eastern European countries their particular languages on pockets of inhabitants speaking foreign languages. In every case the results have been disastrous.

In the case of India there does not exist any justification for adopting a policy which Europeans followed to their discomfiture. All Provincial languages are Indian languages and there is little reason why any Province in India should seek to deprive children inhabiting that Province of their fundamental right to receive education through the medium of the mother-tongue.

It is obvious that if a Province has adopted any particular language as the language of administration, it will be to the interest of those whose mother-tongue is different, to learn it in order to claim participation in the life and privileges of the people of the Province.

The principle of teaching through the mother-tongue then is of general application, but practical consideration suggests two limitations.

In the first place the principle applies mainly to the first stage of education, i.e., the stage of compulsory primary education, or to the group of children at the junior basic stage from the ages of 6 to 11, for the reason that at the stage of compulsory education, children should not be forced to study a language which is not their mother-tongue. In the higher stages after the junior basic,

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it will be necessary for pupils to learn the language of the Province.

Secondly, employment of the mother-tongue for the education of the children whose numbers are extremely small will create administrative and financial difficulties. Hence it is desirable that a minimum number should be fixed for the use of their language. The Provincial or State Government should not only refrain from forcing any particular language on such groups but should place the same facilities of education at their disposal as it does for the other children.

The Government of India is of opinion that in the larger interests of the country it is desirable that the policy enunciated above should be followed by all Provincial and State Governments.

"Let us give out of love that respect to the authority and prestige of our own Government which the old Government was able to extort through force and fear.

"We have to work hard, everyone in his job. Every weaver, every peasant, every trader, must make up his mind to do his best, each in his own sphere, avoiding deceit, avoiding idleness. Public affairs are only the sum total of private lives. The Motherland wants the maximum output of work and mutual trust and honesty."

—H.E. Sri C. Rajagopalachari.

Premier's Appeal

Declaring open the Tuberculosis Hospital, Perambur, recently, the Premier of Madras made a fervent appeal to the public to co-operate with the Government in their efforts to tackle the problem of poverty and elimination of disease. He appealed to the rich to realize the gravity of the times and put their resources to good use by munificent deeds instead of frittering them away on wasteful expenditure on themselves. Very few people know the extent of havoc done by Tuberculosis in this country. The Government have planned to effectively combat what has really proved to be a grave menace to public health.

The Premier's appeal to the rich to identify themselves with humanitarian efforts to alleviate the distress of the common man is one that should be heeded by them with enthusiasm. In the elimination of poverty and disease to which both the Central and Provincial Governments are pledged, there is much scope for voluntary efforts on the part of the rich. The marvels achieved by such voluntary efforts in the sphere of social and economic amelioration in the West are a lesson to this country. Government cannot do much single-handed but with the co-operation of the more fortunate section of humanity, they will be able to make considerable headway.

Dominion Speaker's Independence Day Message

The key to the solution . . . is the personal conduct of each citizen

It is now a year that we have got constitutional independence. The British have withdrawn, and we have now, therefore, the freedom of shaping ourselves as best as we can. Independence has been achieved only to this extent.

But that is just a beginning of our march in the direction of independence. We are not even on the fringe of independence, if we can conceive it for the benefit of the four hundred millions of India.

What is it that we want independence for and for whom do we want it? We want independence not for this or that section, or this or that individual, or any persons of a particular sect, province, race or religion. We want it for all who consider this country as their own. We want it for equal opportunities to all, for a square meal and sufficient clothing for everybody. We wish to see everybody living under the shelter of a roof and having some kind of employment which would enable him or her to live a life of self-respect with sufficient leisure to enjoy the fruits of labour, the company of the family and at least some time of the day to remember our Creator.

Are we marching on in this direction? On the answer to this question depends our answer to the question as to whether we have really achieved independence and whether we have any occasion to feel that we are conducting ourselves as citizens of an ancient independent nation, with a proud and rich past.

We may have a number of schemes but the key to the solution of the problem is the personal conduct of each citizen. If each one of us realizes what independence means and discharges his duties, there need be no doubt that the rights of all will be well protected and respected and every one will be enjoying independence.

G. V. MAVALANKAR,

Speaker, Constituent Assembly (Legislative), India.

DEPARTMENTS' CORNER

Provincial Broadcasting in 1946—1947

A Record of Quick Progress

For spreading knowledge among the rural people by means of the spoken word, the Government have decided to increase the number of community receivers in the Province. The main difficulty in installing more community sets has been the non-availability of cheap receivers within the reach of the poor villagers. Successful experiments were, therefore, carried on in the laboratories of the Provincial Broadcasting Department for the designing and assembling of a suitable community receiver, which could be supplied to the villagers at pre-war rate. The community receivers maintained by this department helped during the year under review, to give up-to-date and correct news and other information to the public, living in the remotest villages in the Province. One hundred and thirty-two new battery sets and 22 main sets were installed during the year under review and some of the battery sets with drawn previously were installed.

The total number of rural radio receivers working on 31st March 1947 was 612 and the total number of sets installed in municipalities on the same date was 182. Besides these, 105 sets have been installed for the Madras City Police and Malabar Special Police. Sixty-eight sets have been installed in district boards, Government and private institutions, etc., thus making a total of 967 sets. The Government have since sanctioned the installation of 30 additional sets in Malabar and South Kanara districts.

The panchayat boards were being allowed a concessional rate of maintenance charges of Rs. 90 per annum per set, exclusive of the annual licence fee of Rs. 10, payable to the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. In September 1946, the Government extended the concession of maintenance charges allowed to municipal councils, to district boards also. The district boards and municipal councils enjoy concessional rates of maintenance charges.

The Special Officer, Provincial Broadcasting, is organizing the broadcast publicity to the activities of the Government and is acting as a liaison officer between the Government and the All-India Radio authorities. The Special Officer has submitted a scheme for utilization of the existing broadcasting facilities in the Province for Government publicity. The Government have decided to introduce that part of the scheme relating to Government talks and news publicity in the current year, and the part relating to rural service in the next year. He has also submitted an interim report for the further development of broadcasting in this Province.

Department of Women's Welfare

Activities Expanding

The Department of Women's Welfare has made another stride in the expansion of its activities by starting a training Institute for social workers at Gandhigram alongside the Kasturba Training School, Chinnalapatti. A batch of 20 students are undergoing an intensive training in social service. Proposals to train up successive batches of honorary workers are also under consideration.

Preparations are in progress for the opening of a Service Home for destitute women in the Madras City.

Cottage Industries have been introduced in all the branches on a small scale according to the availability of raw material in the local markets. Spinning, Mat-weaving, Coir-making, etc., are some of the industries which are engaging the attention and interest of the members who attend the centres at present. The poorer women specially are keen in learning these industries as it helps them to earn some money and thereby supplement their family income. Spinning has become popular with all the members and if more charkas could be made available, a greater output of yanks could be turned out.

Adult literacy classes have been intensified in each and every centre of the branches.

Home Department

More Buses on the Road

Sixteen more petrol buses were added on to the fleet bringing the total to 243 vehicles including 23 diesel buses. Steps have been taken for a study of the traffic conditions in each route and the extent to which the time schedules, etc., conform to them with a view to effect any changes that may be necessary in the interests of economy and efficiency.

A proposal is under consideration to run more vehicles during peak hours to avoid running empty buses during non-peak hours. The buses thus released will be taken up for maintenance during the non-peak hours.

The Enquiry Committee continued to meet during the period regularly every week for taking disciplinary action against offending employees.

Electricity Department

Several New Extensions Sanctioned

During June 1948, nine extensions costing over Rs. 10,000 and less than Rs. 30,000 were sanctioned by the Chief Engineer at an estimated total cost of Rs. 1,48,220.

Supply to 776 Domestic Services, 129 Agricultural Services and 42

Industrial Services was given during the month.

Work on the major schemes and extensions continued to progress.

Labour Department

The Government have accepted the interim award of the Industrial Tribunal for engineering firms and type foundry in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Essor Engineering Works, Madras.

The Government have also accepted the award of the Industrial Tribunal, Madras, in the dispute between the workers and the management of the American Arcot Mission Industrial Institute, Katpadi, North Arcot.

The award of the Industrial Tribunal, Madras, in the dispute between the workers and the management of the East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories Limited Nellikuppam, South Arcot District has also been accepted.

The Government have passed orders on the award of the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Deccan Sugar and Abkari Company, Limited, Pugalur, Tiruchirappalli.

First fortnight of July 1948.

Education Department

Educational Reorganization under way

I

Government have ordered that teachers trained in the principles of Basic Education at Wardha may be treated as Secondary Grade Trained teachers for purposes of scales of pay or grant in aid code according as they are employed in Basic Schools under public or private management provided that the general educational qualifications of the teachers are not lower than those of S.S.L.C. holders.

Compulsory Elementary Education.—In connection with the scheme of compulsion Government have sanctioned 60 posts of Attendance Officers in the cadre of Junior Deputy Inspectors to be tried as an experiment in a few districts.

Reorganization of Secondary Education—

Main Features

Provision of three types of schools of study after III Form (Trades Schools, Technical High Schools and Academical High Schools) and introduction of bifurcated courses.—The question of opening Trade Schools is under separate consideration. The Government do not consider it necessary to open separate technical high schools at present. They have decided that it will be sufficient if the diversified secondary school courses are introduced in the existing high schools providing for literary or academic courses. They have accordingly issued orders sanctioning the introduction of the bifurcated courses of studies noted below in selected high schools commencing from Form IV in the current year :—

1 Engineering.
2 Secretariat.
3 Agriculture.
4 Domestic Science.
5 Music and Dance.
6 Drawing and Painting.

Abolition of the optionals in High School classes.—The Government have directed that optionals be abolished in High School classes.

This will come into effect from 1949--50 as the reorganized courses will be begun in the IV Form this year 1948-49.

Position of various languages.—(i) that Hindustani should be taught in Forms I to III instead of in Forms II to IV, (ii) that students should be allowed the option to take Hindustani or any other Indian language or any other classical languages such as Sanskrit, Arabic or Persian or Urdu in Forms I to III and once they exercise the option they should appear for the examination in that language. Students who offer Urdu should learn Nagari script also at both the stages of Forms I to III and IV to VI, (iii) that henceforth throughout the Secondary School course, the regional language should be the first language, Hindustani or its alternative should be the second language and English the third language, (iv) that the study of Hindustani or its alternative in Forms I to III should be compulsory in all parts of the Province, Andhra, Kerala and Karnataka and Tamil Nad. In Forms IV to VI pupils will have the option to study in addition to the regional language a second language such as Hindustani or Sanskrit or Persian or Arabic or Urdu or any other Indian or any foreign language.

Introduction of craft in all schools.—The curriculum of studies for Forms I to III should be based on a main craft and that teaching of all subjects should be correlated to that craft.

Introduction of bifurcated courses of studies in Secondary Schools.—The Government have decided that to begin with the following courses of studies should be introduced in 50 selected high schools from the school year 1948-49 and the question of extending the system to other high schools should be taken up later. (1) Secretarial, (2) Engineering, (3) Agriculture, (4) Drawing and Painting, (5) Domestic Science and Cookery, (6) Music and Dancing. "Teaching Practice" will also be one of the varied courses to be introduced under the new scheme. The question of introducing this subject in 1948-49 is under separate consideration ; other subject will be added as and when necessary.

Pupils taking academic courses will move on to University courses as they do at present. The question as to whether the pupils taking the technical courses should also be enabled if they wish to do so, to move on to University courses is

under consideration of the Government. In keeping with the main intention of the scheme of bifurcated courses it is being arranged that pupils taking the Engineering Courses under the scheme would not only be eligible but would be preferred for admission to the Poly-Technic Courses appropriate to the particular subject chosen by them under the bifurcated scheme. It has been decided also that the Secretarial Course will alone be the primary qualification for appointment to the post of lower division clerks and similar posts in Government service except that this would not preclude Government from fixing higher qualifications for such posts in any department or office where the special nature of the work requires it.

With a view to enable local bodies and the managements of aided secondary schools to meet the extra cost involved in the organization of the new courses the Government have decided that teaching grants should be made as a special case calculated at three-fourths of the net cost of running the courses during the preceding financial year subject to the maximum of Rs. 1,450 per annum to each school for a period of five years from the introduction of the courses and that the question of reviving the arrangement should be considered at the end of the period. In addition to the teaching grant, a non-recurring grant equal to three-fourths of the cost of the equipment to be purchased for the new courses will be paid in the current year subject to a maximum of Rs. 5,700 for each school.

Adult education.—Government Training Schools for adult school teachers were opened in Koilpatti, Mettur Dam, Calicut and Udipi and the necessary staff was given special training by the Adult Education Officer at the Teachers' College, Saidapet. Sri C. Harisarvothama Rao, M.A., President, Andhra Library Association, was appointed Honorary Director of Adult Education, Andhra Desa.

Rural reconstruction.—Government have permitted the working of 25 night schools for the benefit of adults in Palladam firka in Coimbatore district by the teachers working in the local, aided, district board and panchayat board schools on a monthly subsidy of Rs. 15 for each school.

The Provincial Citizenship Training Courses.—The first training course for teachers to equip them to teach the newly introduced subject of "Citizenship" in the secondary school curriculum commenced on the 6th May 1948 and terminated on 20th May 1948. Ninety-five trainees underwent training. Of the 95 trainees, 74 were men and 21 were women. The training course was located at the Teachers' College, Saidapet, and the Special Officer in charge of the training is Sri T. V. Nilakantan, B.A., B.L. The trainees during the period of the course of training were permitted free of charge to reside in the hostel rooms attached to the Teachers' College, Saidapet. They were provided meals at the cost of Government for the entire period of the training course with an additional mess charge of Rs. 5 each collected from the trainees. Certificates were also awarded to these trainees.

Another Citizenship Training Course was also conducted at the Teachers' College, Saidapet, for the second batch of 85 trainees. The course commenced on 5th June 1948 and terminated on 19th June 1948.

Regional conferences of local body representatives and inspecting officers at Madura and Masulipatam.—A conference of the executive officers of local bodies and inspecting officers for the southern area was held at Madura attended by the Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Madras, Divisional Inspectors, District Educational Officers and Inspectresses on 17th May 1948.

Regional conference of the executive officers of local bodies and inspecting officers of the northern area held at Masulipatam.—A conference of the executive officers of local bodies and inspecting officers of the department was held at Masulipatam on the 10th, 11th and 12th June 1948 presided over by the Hon'ble Minister for Education.

II

Basic Education

Nine of the existing Government Training Schools have been converted into Government Basic Training Schools and they have begun to work as such from 2nd July 1948. An Aided Basic Training School has been started at Tirur, Kistna district. This brings the number of Government and recognized Basic Training Schools in the Province to 17.

The teachers (trained) in these institutions will serve in Basic Schools that will be organized in the compact areas encircling the Basic Training Schools.

Secondary Education

With the introduction of the reorganization scheme of secondary education, July has been a busy month for all the secondary schools in the Presidency. As is natural in the case of any new endeavour and a number of problems arose in connexion with the practical details of the reorganization and many of them have been solved by joint conferences of departmental officers with teachers' organizations. Such conferences were held in Madras City under the auspices of the Madras Headmasters' Association on the 23rd and 25th of July 1948 and on the latter occasion the Hon'ble Minister for Education was himself present and clarified many of the problems. On the 16th July, the Hon'ble Minister for Education addressed a meeting of the Headmistresses of Girls' Schools in the Madras City held at the Presidency High School, Egmore. Both the Hon'ble Minister and the departmental officers have been visiting schools individually during the month to watch the beginning of the scheme and to guide the staff in making a right beginning with the new scheme.

> Communal hatred is perhaps the worst kind of leprosy imaginable. How I wished that people would develop abhorrence and horror of this leprosy so that they can be cured of the fatal malady!
>
> —MAHATMA GANDHI.

With the distinction between Tamil Nad and other parts of the Province in relation to the study of Hindustani as a second language abolished and a wider choice given for the languages to be studied as second language so as to include any Indian language, many of the difficulties expressed have been clarified. Permission has been granted as a temporary and transitory measure for schools to utilize the services of artisans to assist the teachers in instruction in the main basic crafts. Provision has been made for grant towards the equipment required for these crafts.

Two guide books for teachers are now in the Press and are expected to be published towards the end of July or beginning of August 1948. One of these relates to the use and hoisting of the flag of the Indian Union and the other to the organization of classes in Citizenship Training in secondary schools.

The Irrigation Department

In July 1948, the Government sanctioned the improvements to Kiliyanur large tank near the Kaliveli swamp in South Arcot district. It is expected that as a result of the improvements an extent of 200 acres of dry lands will be brought under wet cultivation resulting in an annual additional food production of 100 tons of rice valued at Rs. 25,000.

The Government have also sanctioned the investigation of the scheme to restore the Vayali and Malayadipatti tanks in Tirunelveli district. The tanks, if restored, are expected to bring under cultivation 780 acres of land producing 390 tons of rice annually.

(*Continued on page* 13)

PROHIBITION

Ameliorative Activities

The following is a brief summary of the reports received of the ameliorative activities in the Prohibition districts. The reports mainly relate to the latter part of July 1948 :—

Tiruchirappalli.—Villagers in one place have constructed a school building at a cost of Rs. 2,500. A grama sangham in another place has constructed a building at a cost of Rs. 200 to be used as a reading room. The Harijans in one place staged a drama. Village games and tournaments took place as usual.

Chittoor.—Rural games and sports were conducted as usual. Bhajanas were performed in some villages. Thrift days were celebrated. Street cleaning drives were launched. Reading circles were formed. Stone signposts were put up indicating the names of hamlets and villages. One grama sangham has collected Rs. 350 for the construction of a reading room and a community hall. Another grama sangham has purchased a breeding bull out of public subscription. Approach roads were also constructed in some places. One library was opened in a place, and a radio set was installed in another.

Nilgiris.—Sports and games were organized as usual. Steps were taken for organizing Egg Marketing and Milk Supply Societies. Ex-addicts are improving economically as a result of Prohibition. Two reading rooms were opened. New grama sanghams were organized in some places. Proposal for organization of cottage industries societies are under way. Thrift days were celebrated. A milk supply society was organized in Kotagiri.

North Arcot.—Tournaments were held as usual. A radio was installed in one village. One grama sangham has purchased a site for constructing a community hall at a cost of Rs. 3,300. In one village, the villagers planted 40 plants on both sides of the road and steps are being taken by some co-operative societies to develop poultry farming.

Malabar.—A Coir Workers' Co-operative Society was organized in one place. A grama sangham was organized in another place. The cart tracks between two places in Palghat taluk were got repaired by the villagers.

Coimbatore.—The Collector addressed public meetings in not less than 15 villages on the methods of rural uplift, duties of grama sanghams, etc. These meetings were largely attended. Rural sports and amusements were held as usual. Grama sanghams have also done good work. One grama sangham is sinking a well. Another grama sangham has constructed a radio cabin. Yet another grama sangham has collected Rs. 1,000 for purchasing two radio sets.

Kurnool.—Sports were held as usual. Dramas were enacted. Thrift days were celebrated. Ex-addicts are reported to be saving substantially. A special scheme to encourage thrift among casual labourers in and around Kurnool town was launched. An adult education centre was also opened.

Madura.—A co-operative society for ex-tappers was organized in one place. Fifteen hundi boxes have been distributed through a co-operative society. Private subscriptions to the extent of Rs. 530 were collected for putting up a community centre in one place. Rural games were held as usual. One grama sangham has opened a night school for adults.

Bellary.—Sports and tournaments were held as usual. Dramas were staged. Under the auspices of the Village Betterment Committee in one place, an elementary school was opened. A reading room and library was also opened in another place.

Tanjore.—Thrift day was celebrated in some places. A free reading room was declared open by the Special Development Officer in one village under the auspices of a grama sangham. An adult night school was also opened. One firka association was formed, and one milk supply co-operative society was started.

Guntur.—The villagers in one place constructed a library building at a cost of Rs. 2,000. Tournaments were held as usual. In a public meeting Harijan ladies recited a song on prohibition.

Salem.—In one firka, four charka sanghams were organized and started

on work. In another place the construction of an elementary school at a cost of Rs. 10,000 is nearing completion. Sports took place as usual. One co-operative credit society has collected Rs. 109 through hundi boxes. Two grama sanghams assisted the police in detecting cases of illicit distillation.

Anantapur.—A firka tournament was held in one place. A night school was also opened.

Nellore.—In two selected societies in one taluk, hundi boxes were distributed to ex-addicts, and in another "Thrift Collections Day" was conducted. A firka tournament was held in one place.

Lest We Forget

The Drink Evil

(I)

The use of intoxicants like wine and the rest not only leads to mental and physical decay, but also deadens the moral instincts and destroys all power of self-control.

(II)

Drugs and drink are the two arms of the devil.

(III)

I hold drinking spirituous liquors in India to be more criminal than the petty thefts which I see starving men and women committing and for which they are prosecuted and punished. I do tolerate, very unwillingly it is true and helplessly because of want of full realization of the law of love, a moderate system of penal code. And so long as I do I must advocate the summary punishment of those who manufacture the fiery liquid and those even who will persist in drinking it notwithstanding repeated warnings. I do not hesitate forcibly to prevent my children from rushing into fire or deep waters. Rushing to red water is far more dangerous than rushing to raging furnace or flooded stream. The latter destroys only the body, the former destroys both body and soul.

(IV)

You will not be deceived by the specious argument that India must not be made sober by compulsion and that those who wish to drink must have facilities provided for them. The State does not cater for the vices of its people. We do not regulate and license houses of ill-fame. We do not provide facilities for thieves to indulge in their propensity for thieving. I hold drink to be more damnable than thieving and perhaps even prostitution. Is it not often the parent of both ?

(V)

In a climate like ours there is no need for drinks whatsoever. Nothing but ruin stares a nation in the face that is a prey to the drink habit . . . The great community to which Shri Krishna belonged was ruined by that habit. The monstrous evil was one of the contributing factors in the fall of Rome. If therefore you will live decently, you will shut this evil whilst there is yet time.

(VI)

There is no halfway house between drunkenness and prohibition. Well-to-do men may pretend to be moderate. But there is no such thing as moderation possible among labourers.

(VII)

If I was appointed dictator for one hour for all India, the first thing I would do would be to close without compensation all the liquor shops, destroy all the toddy palms, such as I know in Gujarat, and compel factory owners to produce human conditions for their workers and open refreshment and recreation rooms where these workmen would get innocent drinks and equally innocent amusements.

Mahatmaji.

AN INDUSTRIALIST'S VIEW.

"The gap between the people and their leaders is nowhere more discernible than in the matter of liquor. You must find the people's sentiment where the people live. In common decency the liquor generation should be allowed to die in silence. Its agonies should not be the constant topic of American journals.

"The coming Prohibition has put more of the workman's money into saving banks and into his wife's pocket-book. He has more leisure to spend with his family. The family life is healthier. Workmen go out of doors, go on picnics, have time to see their children and play with them. They have time to see more, do more and incidentally, they buy more. This stimulates business and increases prosperity, and in general economic circle the money passes through industry again and back into the workman's pocket. It is a truism that what benefits one is bound to benefit all, and labour is coming to see the truth of his more every day."

—Excerpt from an article by HENRY FORD in the Forum

TOPICS AND TALKS

Ravages of Tuberculosis

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur's Address at Madanapalle

Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Health Minister, recently inaugurated the B.C.G. Campaign at Madanapalle. In the course of her speech, she said—

Tod-ay we are launching a new campaign against a dreadful disease which has been rightly called the "Captain of the Men of Death." Tuberculosis is not only responsible for the loss of precious lives but also for an enormous amount of prolonged disability, suffering and economic loss. There are at least two million tuberculosis patients in the country and half a million die of this disease every year. And when I say two million sufferers and half a million deaths it must be an under-estimation because our vital statistics cannot, in the circumstances, be either accurate or up-to-date. That the disease is spreading and spreading rapidly is undeniable. It is essential, therefore, that a total war should be waged against this dangerous Public Enemy by utilizing all the weapons that are available in our armoury.

Elaborate schemes for the control of tuberculosis have been prepared by our technical advisers. One such scheme is protective inoculation with B.C.G. vaccine. The manufacture of the vaccine is under way.

Though it is our intention to bring the benefit of anti-tuberculosis vaccination to all those who are in need, as expeditiously as possible, it is considered desirable to proceed with caution in attempting to expand the vaccination programme, in order to avoid bringing this valuable measure of prevention to undeserved disrepute by accidents occurring through ill-conceived haste. It is, therefore, advisable for the present to confine ourselves to certain selected places like Madras, Bombay, Baroda, Mysore, Delhi and Calcutta. I should make it clear, however, that it is the Central Government's intention and desire to introduce, as circumstances permit, B.C.G. vaccination all over the country for we are of opinion that the B.C.G. programme should prove to be a valuable adjunct to other measures of tuberculosis control. I use the word 'adjunct' advisedly because I do not want to create the impression that vaccination with B.C.G. is sufficient to prevent tuberculosis. We have to fight against this disease on all fronts. How can we hope to overcome it unless we can provide sufficient food, proper houses, proper drainage and sewerage, pure water and milk supply, enough clinics, hospitals, sanatoria and after-care colonies for the entire population and for the sufferers from T.B.? And, above all, we must banish the darkness of ignorance of the laws of health and good living that envelopes our country at present.

Note.—Tuberculosis is a growing menace to the Public Health of this country. Half a million people die in this country every year on account of Tuberculosis. The disease has to be successfully combated and Government's compaign to this end are under way.

The success of the campaign is, therefore, largely dependent on the intelligent co-operation given by the public and the assistance rendered by Provincial and State Governments. In order to place the B.C.G. vaccination programme on a sound basis it is considered essential that the Government of India should make itself responsible for the production and supply of the vaccine to different parts of the country, should control the use of the vaccine for immunising the people through steps taken in close co-operation with Provincial and State Governments and should bear a share of the financial burden in respect of the Demonstration Centres to be set up in selected areas for the next few years.

Labourers at Tungabhadra Project Headworks

At present there are 7,300 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labourers working at the dam site. Accommodation has been provided for them at a cost of Rs. 4·69 lakhs. In the case of unskilled workers every family has been provided with hutting accommodation of about 170 square feet area, either with thatched roof or with Asbestos Cement roof. This works out to an average expenditure of about Rs. 110 per family in the case of thatched sheds and about Rs. 250 in the case of sheds with Asbestos sheets roofing. The total number of huts constructed is 1,090 for about 6,916 members including children and other non-workers. In the case of skilled labourers each family has been provided with a semi-permanent hutting at a cost of Rs. 600 each. Six-hundred numbers of such huts have been constructed in the Permanent Labour Colony.

Those who think that labourers are not having a square deal in the new dispensation will find enough to disillusion them in this article.

The labour colonies which are in four separate blocks are served with good drinking water supply. The Nissen Hut Colony and the Permanent Labour Colony are supplied temporarily with water pumped from the Basavannah Channel, and treated by sedimentation, and chlorination as for the main Headworks Camp. The Main Vizagapatam Colony is supplied through a separate pump installed at the margin of the Basavannah channel near the right flank of the dam. The street taps which have been provided in sufficient numbers are connected to a storage tank which is filled up by pumping. The East Vanka Colony is supplied at present by three water lorries working 16 hours a day in two shifts of 8 hours each. Water is also supplied to labourers at the dam line during working hours by water lorries conveying treated water. The permanent water supply arrangements for the entire township including all the labour colonies are being expedited

There is a Hospital with 20 beds and with an isolation ward with a Civil Assistant Surgeon in charge. There is also a woman Sub-Assistant Surgeon and a Midwife. In addition to attending to the out-patients coming to the Hospital every day the Assistant Surgeon goes out to work-site to attend on labourers who might not be taking the trouble of going to the Hospital. The labourers, when in the Hospital as in-patients, are provided with free diet. Systematic anti-malarial operations are being carried out by the Public Health Department and malaria has been rooted out from the dam-site and camp area.

Three primary schools have been opened one in each of the labour colonies. About 80 children are attending classes in each school.

Two creches built near the workspot with necessary establishment are employed to look after the children in the creches during working hours. The labourers' children are supplied with free milk. Parks and a radio stand have also been provided.

There is a Special Deputy Collector with three Deputy Tahsildars for looking after the Labourers' Welfare, including rationing. A Co-operative store is functioning at the Tungabhadra Project Headworks. Increased rations are allowed to the hard manual labourers and necessary quota of rice for such supply is specially arranged for from Bezwada every month and stored at the Co-operative Stores, and supplied to the labourers. Though statutory rationing has now been stopped in Bellary district, special quotas are being obtained and the labourers are supplied at 12 oz. of rice per adult per day at 2¼ seers per rupee.

Rice, ragi, cholam and all articles of grocery available in the stores are regularly sold to the labourers. In addition there are several retail provision shops near the permanent labour colony and the Vizagapatam labour colony run by private agencies.

Street-lighting with electricity has been provided for in the main Vizagapatam labour colony and in the Nissen Hut colony and the East Vanka. Street-lighting to the entire area on the southern side of the railway could not be taken up so far, as permission for the cable-line to cross the line has only been recently obtained from the railway, and the work of extension of the lines to this area has now been taken up.

Kerosene oil is now being sold to the labourers as for others, at the rate of one bottle per card, once in two weeks or once a month depending upon the stock of kerosene oil available. As everyone knows, kerosene oil is a controlled article and every attempt is being made to get an assured supply for distribution to the labourers.

Every case of accident to the labourers engaged on the work is properly and immediately attended to by the Civil Assistant Surgeon. There is a net work of telephones in the camp area and the Superintendents and Executive Engineers rush to the spot if any accidents are reported. The compensation to be paid to disabled persons is determined by the Workmen's Compensation Act and invariably a generous view is taken of each case consistent with the rules. Disabled persons are given permission to open petty shops in the camp area and thereby secure a livelihood. Some have been given railway fare for returning to their homes.

Improving the Lot of Aboriginals

Possibilities of Co-operative Principle being exploited

The following are the most important aboriginal and hill tribes scattered over this Province, viz., The Kondhs and Borans of Vizagapatam Agency, the Koyas of East Godavari Agency, the Chenchus of the Nallamalais (Kurnool district), the Yenadis of Sriharikottah, Nellore district, the Kurumbas and Todas of Nilgiris, the Malayalis of hill tracts of North Arcot and Salem and the jungle tribes of Kollegal, North Coimbatore, Palghat and Wynad, the Mannadis of the Upper Palni and the Pallyans of the Western Ghats. These constitute the most primitive and backward sections of the population. The question of amelioration of the social and economic condition of these tribes has always been a pressing one with the Government. Several enquiries were held into the conditions prevailing in these tribal areas and ways and means of tackling the problem from more than one angle suggested. Of them the co-operative method occupies a primary position. The chances of success of the suggestion for the betterment of the people have been limited by several powerful factors, characterizing these areas. Firstly, thrift and forethought, which are the essentials of a sound co-operative movement, are not qualities normally associated with these primitive people. Secondly, though some of these regions are rich in soil and natural resources, yet they remain practically cut off from Plains for want of communications. The want of roads and consequent lack of access have prevented the flow of civilization with its conditions for progressive development. As a result the aboriginal tribes have been left in continued subjection to the vagaries of the local traders and the neighbouring Plainsmen who are not slow in taking advantage of their ignorance. Thirdly, the lack of education on their part and their age-long seclusion from civilized society have in the past seriously handicapped the success of co-operative endeavour among these people.

Application of Co-operative Principle

Notwithstanding the above obstacles the co-operative method has been tried and successfully too in some of the tribal areas. Among these areas, the Agency tracts of Vizagapatam, East and West Godavari, the Nilgiris, the Kolli hills of Salem district, the Nallamalais of Kurnool district, deserve special mention. The need for co-operative endeavour among the aboriginal tribes is felt in these important directions. Firstly, there is the need for the supply of essential household commodities in demand in tribal areas, but procurable only from the Plains; secondly, the provision of cheap credit; and thirdly, the marketing of the minor hill and forest produce collected by the hill men with a view to fetch them the most reasonable and competitive price. It has been found from experience that the co-operative

method, if it should achieve the desired results should be simultaneously tried in all the three directions as they happen to be closely inter-related.

Details of Application

The supply of essential articles required by the tribesmen at cheap rates is easily the most important of all the above three methods. The exploitation of these people at present by the merchants of the Plains who purchase the hill produce at ridiculously low prices and sell at unduly high prices the articles required by the tribesmen such as salt, oils, onions, match boxes, clothes, etc., is too well known to need any mention. Besides high prices, the ignorant and unsuspecting hillmen suffer in the matter of purchases by way of inferior stuff and false measures and weights. It is with a view to spare this economic exploitation that the organization of co-operative stores or sales depots of stores in proximity is advocated. This work has already engaged the attention of the Government and some real headway has already been made particularly in the Vizagapatam and Godavari Agencies and Nilgiris hills where stores and sale depots of stores were opened. The opening of more provision stores wherever chances of their success exist in the tribal areas is under the active consideration of the Government.

Next in importance is the need for marketing of the several items of the forest produce in the collection of which the hillmen are generally engaged. The way in which the hillmen are rewarded for their produce at the hands of the trader of the Plains is a matter for sad comment and the exploitation involved in this sector is almost unsurpassed in the history of human endeavour. The need for a suitable organization for the marketing societies for the hillmen than any other type of society. At least one such society has so far been organized and is being successfully run. Even with its modest volume of business, the Atmakur Chenchu Loan and Sale Society has been doing yeoman service to its members of the Chenchu tribe.

Third, but no less in importance is the granting of loans and advances by the organization of co-operative credit societies. The hillmen need provision of cheap credit to carry on their operations and to purchase their essentials during the off season. The one important obstacle on the way of the successful working of the credit societies is the generally undependable character of the tribesmen and their tendency to elude the creditor. Hence the co-operative institution started for the purpose should invariably adopt the same methods as the private money-lender does to secure its assets, except that unlike the private money-lender, it is not the object of the co-operative credit society to fleece its borrowers. Even in the midst of these difficulties credit co-operation among hillmen has made a comparatively much better headway than other types of co-operative endeavour. Thus as on 31st December 1947 there were above seventy societies for hillmen in Nilgiri district alone.

Conclusion

One important lesson emerging from the application of co-operative effort for amelioration of the condition of hillmen is that co-operative enterprise in the sense of voluntary and joint effort by the people for the promotion of their economic interests does not hold out many chances of success. At least for some time to come, i.e., until there is a substantial improvement in communication for the better, and there is sufficiently widespread education among the hillmen official control over the organization and management of the co-operative institutions is necessary. It may, however, be slowly withdrawn by stages to the extent there is the growth of consciousness among the hillmen.

On the whole, even amidst the several limitations the co-operative method has made useful headway in tribal areas, and wherever it has been successfully tried its importance can hardly be exaggerated.

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Vol. II No. 16 (11) Sep. 1. 1948

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PROBLEMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Recent Developments in Indian Agriculture

Remarkable Strides Made

The solution of some of India's most pressing problems lies in increasing agricultural production so as to make our nation self-sufficient in food in the shortest possible time. For, the primary need, without which neither freedom nor life itself can exist, is food. There is no disentangling of this theme from the future politics and economics of our country. It is in the realization of this basic fact and in the steps taken to meet the challenge of recurring food crises in the country, that the last twelve months of newly won freedom register the greatest change.

August 1948 is an appropriate month for looking back at what has been accomplished in agriculture in the past twelve months. It has generally been a good year for crops and for the agricultural producer. It has been a year without heart-breaking losses through crop diseases or mortifying reverses because of disastrous failures of the monsoon or unprecedented floods with one exception, Madras where because of a prolonged draught there was a shortfall in production by over a million tons.

For four years prior to August 1947, the Government had concentrated their efforts largely on food distribution. This was inevitable because as a result of the loss of Burma rice all available internal supplies of foodgrains had to be distributed on an equitable basis. Before the appropriate machinery could be set up, came the tragic Bengal Famine, which, more than anything else, focussed public attention on the seriousness of India's food problem. The Report of the Foodgrains Policy Committee of 1943 formed the basis of Government policy during the next four years. Its main planks were: controlled prices of foodgrains, their controlled distribution and procurement under the aegis of the Government. This policy worked with remarkable success and received unqualified praise from international observers and missions. But its continuance d pended upon the willing co-operation of millions of cultivators scattered throughout the country, who had to sell their grain to Government at 'controlled' rates. Dissatisfaction at the 'controlled' prices paid to the agriculturists for their produce gradually grew, and this gathered momentum with the coming into power of popular Ministries in the Provinces. Internal procurement decreased; a section of the popular opinion rebelled against reg mentation in food, and Mahatma Gandhi's powerful voice was raised in favour of self-reliance. This led to the appointment of the Purshotamdas Committee in September 1947 charged with the "more important task" of recommending measures which would "s cure a definite increase in food production within the country during the next five years."

Grow More Food Campaign

Before we pass on to the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, it is necessary to clear up some prevalent misunderstandings of the Grow More Food Campaign and its achievements. The aim with which the campaign was started in 1942, was to offset the loss of rice supplies from Burma. This emergency was not expected to last more than a couple of years after the end of the war. To convert that emergency measure into a scheme for covering the existing deficit in India on the basis of a 12 oz. or 1 lb. ration for the whole population is to throw the blame on measures which were never intended to solve the problem of ever increasing demands. To quote a high government official in this connexion, "This is to make the same kind of mistake as was done by the British in India when emergency measures to deal with political unrest became the permanent feature of their administration."

Two other facts are apt to be forgotten in this connexion. Agriculture in India still depends upon the closest obedience to the calls of the seasons and a few weeks of cloudy weather or drought may affect the food supply of a year. This happened in two successive years in 1946 and 1947. And, secondly, agriculture is a provincial responsibility. The Centre can allocate part of the funds for provincial schemes, it can offer technical advice, carry out research, offer guidance, co-ordinate supplies of essential materials and undertake complex organization and technical schemes, e.g., planned irrigation by tubewells served by electric power, or land reclamation through mechanized means, but it is ultimately a provincial responsibility to "make two blades of grass grow where one grew before." It is a wise provision in the proposed new constitution, therefore, to place the responsibility for food production fairly and squarely on provincial governments.

Increased Production

Compared with 1946-47, the estimated total outturn of the seven major foodgrains, i.e., rice, jower, bajra, maize, wheat, gram and barley, shows an increase of one million tons, the figures for two years being 39,423,000 and 40,419,000 tons, respectively.

The Foodgrains Policy Committee's Report has recommended a target of increased annual production of 10 million tons, within the shortest possible time. This is to be achieved through large multi-purpose projects which will provide assured irrigation, intensive efforts to raise the production from the soil already under cultivation by increased use of water, manure and improved seeds, and the development of culturable waste lands. The expected increase in production from multi-purpose projects is 4 million tons, from the existing food production plans of Provinces and States within the next 5 years, 3 million tons and the balance is to be bridged by the reclamation and cultivation of culturable waste lands of all types.

Land Reclamation

One of the most important development in agricultural production since the advent of freedom, has been the undertaking by the Dominion Ministry of Agriculture of large land reclamation projects in different parts of India with heavy tractors and ploughs. On December 16, 1947, a scheme of land reclamation through mechanization—described as the largest in the East, excluding Soviet Russia—was put into operation in the Meerut district of the

United Provinces, when heavy mechanical machinery moved up the first sods of 50,000 acres of culturable waste land overgrown with jungle and tall grasses. This scheme has since been followed by two other similar schemes in the United Province,s one in Central Provinces and one in the Matsya Union. The Ministry of Agriculture has, therefore. assisted Provinces to reclaim about 45,000 acres of land so far through tractors, either imported from United Kingdom and the United States of America or rehabilitated in their own workshop at Pusa.

The Report of the Foodgrains Policy Committee is being examined by the Government of India in detail, but in view of the difficulties and the time required in obtaining the necessary machinery and other equipment it may not be possible to reclaim more than 6 million acres in the next 5 to 6 years. Preliminary survey work cannot be carried out on more than 2 million acres per annum. This in itself will limit the speed with which land reclamation work can be undertaken. And if the country accepts the target of reclaiming 6 million acres of new land, it will be necessary to purchase additional 1,000 machines. In the present state of world production and demand, we cannot expect more than 300 machines at the end of the first eighteen months and thereafter 300 machines every year. These machines will require an equal number of heavy reclamation ploughs and an adequate number of brush clearing and drainage equipment sets. It is possible to manufacture heavy reclamation ploughs in India but certain component parts will have to be imported.

Machines *v.* Bullocks.

It is necessary to emphasize that tractors cannot replace bullocks in India. There are certain basic factors which must limit the extension of tractor cultivation in India. The minimum area of land on which a 25 to 30 H.P. tractor can be economically used is 150 to 200 acres. The rotation of crops must be of an intensive nature so as to ensure employment of the tractor for at least 1,800 hours in a year. This means that the land must be fully irrigated and must be double cropped. Rice cultivation, therefore, in India does not lend itself to mechanical cultivation, nor the large areas under other crops which do not have an adequate supply of rainfall. Bullocks must, therefore, continue to be the main source of power for cultivation in India for all time unless there is an economic revolution in the country.

As has been stated at the beginning of this article, agriculture is a long-term undertaking; several months have to elapse between the sowing of the seed and the garnering of the crops in the fields. No revolutionary change or dramatic advance can, therefore, be registered during the brief period of a twelve month. What however cannot be missed is the anxiety of the Government to solve the problem quickly, and the realization probably for the first time that in any scheme of national uplift, the actual tiller of the soil has to play the leading part. With characteristic impatience Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, the Dominion Agriculture Minister, told the m mber of the Purshotamdas Committee: "I hope that the scheme of food self-sufficiency which you will produce can be implemented in a very very limited number of years—not beyond five. I wish it were two." And the one theme which runs through all his speeches is the urgency of the problem.

Symbolic of the changed attitude of the Government to the primary producer is the increased emphasis which is now being laid today on the manufacture of compost from town refuse and gur from palmyra juice. Today about 20,542 village centres are manufacturing nearly 1,250,000 tons of compost from refuse, and nearly 200,000 tons of gur is being made from palmyra toddy. These are small beginnings, but they have blazed a new trail. Instead of intoxicating people, the conversion of palmyra juice into gur is helping to resuscitate a dying industry and to provide supplementary occupation to our cultivators spread over lakhs of villages.

In theory, much more could have been done for the actual tiller of the soil. But it must not be forgotten that our *kisan*, with the mentality to obey the quiet order of the seasons, does not easily acquire the facile optimism of the city dweller. Too often he has seen drought, flood or pest destroy the fruit of his toil and learned from it patience and submission. His is a minute economy to which a small loss means ruin. All attempts to reform Indian agriculture must fit in with the *kisan's* economy.

Problems before Local Bodies

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur's Illuminating Address

Speaking recently at the First Local Self-Government Ministers' Conference, the Dominion Health Minister referred to some of the social problems which local bod es have to tackle successfully. She said, "I would like to mention a few points which deserve close attention from authorities res ponsible for local administration, whoever those authorities may be or whatever forms they may take.

Neglect of Schools

In most of our cities, and here we must not think so much in terms of a few capital cities but in terms of the mufassal areas, schools are neglected, their buildings are poor, the teachers are badly paid and hence their quality is poor. This applies particularly to girls' schools. There is no provision of milk or free meals for children such as exist in even the poorest towns of a country like Britain. There are, generally speaking, no proper playgrounds for them, no nursery schools, no creches and no medical examination for children.

Housing Problem

Another social need which has been sadly neglected by our local authorities and needs urgent attention is the provision of proper housing for the people, especially for the poor. Harijan quarters and quarters of labouring people everywhere that I have seen are depl r able. There seems to be little or no proper planning in the matter of housing and in crowded areas occupied by the poor, sanitation and hygiene are hopelessly neglected and the drainage is often poor or non-existent. Adequate attention is not always paid to a proper water-supply. It must be the aim of local bodies to see that all slum areas are cleared and the provision of proper housing for the Harijan and other workers must be their primary concern. In this matter I have always felt that a single room tenement to accommodate a family must be absolutely banned. It is unnecessary to dilate on the grave evils, both physical and moral, that must inevitably result from such over-crowding. The poorest amongst us must have at least two

living rooms, a kitchen and a bath room, a verandah and a little court-yard, where they can sleep in the hot weather. The solution of these problems of housing, slum clearance, pure water-supply and improvement of sanitation will, no doubt, require time and money, but I am sure all of us will agree that it is high time they were tackled in right earnest by the authorities responsible for local administration.

Lack of Civic Sense

Maternity and child-welfare centres provided by local authorities in most parts of the country are inadequate and often badly run and it is also common knowledge that hospitals when they have been run by local bodies have generally been so neglected that those in charge of them have begged for them to be provincialized. This is only another instance where the lack of a proper sense of citizenship has resulted in bad and inefficient administration. It is as a consequence of the same lack of a proper civic sense that bribery and corruption are rampant during elections and afterwards too because self-interest comes before the general good. These and other defects, of which you who are in charge of local administration must be far more aware than I am, have to be remedied if the community is to progress and if the people are to be given those facilities and opportunities which are the right of every citizen. It is for us assembled here to discuss ways and means of bringing about the necessary improvements. People should be educated to conform to certain standards of behaviour as citizens. Only if we set them ourselves can we demand standards of integrity from others. Co-operative association in the matter of health, education, agriculture and building will help, I feel sore, to inculcate in us a better sense of citizenship. It is largely because we have been used to think in terms of cast and community that we have been unable to work as a team.

Social Service

I have long been in favour of a department of social service in all branches of administration. This would mean training centres for would be municipal and district board employees. There should also be committees of voluntary workers who would keep in touch with local needs, help in organizing co-operation and keeping the peace, impart civic and health instruction to adults, supervise the distribution of, for example, milk to children, run community kitchens, assist the local bodies in every way, keep abreast of local opinion and maintain a high standard of integrity as well as of efficiency. I found in my own home town where I served for three years as a member of the municipality that my health centre worked exceedingly well when it was run by a committee of voluntary women workers. The Health Visitor-in-charge was then freed from rendering special service to the members of the municipality or district board. The same applied to the inspectress of municipal girls' schools. Women teachers often have a hard time when their appointments or dismissals are in the hands of men. That is one of the reasons why I have always been most anxious for women to serve on local bodies. Their presence on municipal and district committees should raise the tone and standards of deliberation and work, as they should be expected to bring in a finer spirit of service.

Amenities for Better Living

There are many other things which local authorities will have to do to provide amenities for better living in both rural and urban areas. Children's playground and park for the public are essential in any plan for building model townships and it is high time that the authorities resposnible took up the remodelling of our villages. No longer can villages be neglected. It should be possible to solve the problem of remodelling villages effectively if the problem is tackled in a systematic manner. Surely, remodelling of one or two villages a year should not be beyond the bounds of possibility for every local board.

As everyone is aware, food and milk adulteration is widely prevalent in this country constituting a very grave threat to national health and in the matter of suppression of this evil the local authorities have to play a very considerable part. They could also play a most useful part in organizing dairies to ensure a proper supply of milk to the cities.

Beggar Problem

Most of our cities are infested with beggars, many of whom are children of sick persons. It is essential to see that these unfortunate children are reclaimed and given opportunities to develop into useful members of the community and that the sick destitutes are properly cared for. It is the duty of local authorities to deal with this problem in an effective manner. Every city must have a poor-house and an alms-house for the aged.

There are no doubt many other points concerning local self-government which will occur to you. But whatever may be the needs to be met, ultimate success will depend on the existence of a proper organization with adequate means, which will be honest, efficient and vigilant.

Having recently been in both Switzerland and England I was able to have a glimpse of what local administration there is doing for the people committed to their charge. In spite of what they have already achieved there is the constant urge to improve conditions. We must do likewise. I am confident that where there is the will to do there is bound to be success.

Departments' Corner

(*Continued from page* 6)

Labour Department

The Government have accepted the interim recommendations of the Industrial Tribunal in the dispute between the workers and management of Spencer and Company, Madras.

The Government have also accepted the interim recommendations of the Industrial Tribunal in the dispute between the workers and management of Gordon and Woodroffe Leather Manufacturing Company, Limited, Madras.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers of Label and Tobacco section and management of Taj Mahal, Kareem and Bavetta Beedi Factories in Madras to the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication.

They have also referred the dispute between the workers and management of the Associated Transports (Madras), Limited, for adjudication.

The Government of Madras have accepted the interim recommendations of the Industrial Tribunal for engineering firms in the dispute between the workers and managements of Messrs. Massey's Engineering Works, Madras and Standard Engineering Works, Madras.

The Government Transport Employees and General Workers' Union, Madras, have accepted the terms offered by the Government and have withdrawn the notice of strike, dated 11th July 1948.

The Government have also passed orders on the interim recommendations of the Industrial Tribunal (for engineering firms) in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Commonwealth Engineering Works, Mangalore, South Kanara.

OBSERVATIONS AND EXHORTATIONS

Improvement of Agriculture

Bombay Minister stresses the Urgency of Conserving Soil Fertility

In the course of an address, the Agriculture Minister, Bombay, said:

"To my knowledge, manuring is perhaps the quickest and the cheapest method of increasing the yield of crops. I am told that in China the farmer does not allow any cattle dung or night soil to be used except for manuring. Let us, in this country, follow the example of the Chinese farmer. Our capac ty for compost making is 84 lakhs tons. This quantity of manure would be sufficient to fertilize about 34 lakh acres of non-irrigated crops. The additional yield of foodgrains on account of the application of compost would be about 170,000 tons. Our capacity to produce night soil manure is estimated at 20 lakh tons. This quantity would be sufficient to manure 8 lakh acres of non-irrigated foodgrain crops, which would give an additional yield of about 40,000 tons.

"The total quantity of additional food crops which we could get by the full use of our resources of compost and night soil manure would be equivalent to about 30 per cent of our total deficit in foodgrains. I would like to mention here the scheme adopted recently to encourage co-operative effort in villages in respect of compost making. Every village which digs more than 150 pits is now offered a prize of Rs. 25.

"There can be no two opinions about the necessity and urgency of conserving soil fertility and moisture. The principle of persuasion of the cultivator for understanding an improvement and of giving active help to him in carrying it out, once he has agreed to take up the work, has been adopted in the case of land improvement as elsewhere.

"The Government has given considerable attention to the revival of village industries. An organization has been set up for providing technical knowledge and equipment to the village artisan. Greater emphasis is laid on co-operative effort amongst them. The Village Industries Committee has been set up for enlisting the active participation of non-official workers in the attempts of Government to rehabilitate village industries. During 1948–49, over 7 lakhs of Rupees would be spent for assisting village industries through the Village Industries Committee."

Role of a Public Servant

Public Servants should think of their Obligations first and then of their Rights

Addressing the Agricultural Conference His Excellency Sir C. L. Trivedi, Governor of East Punjab, said: "The Premier and I myself are public servants, i.e., to say we exist to serve the public, and we have got to serve them honestly, impartially, vigorously and to the best of our ability. For officers in the Agricultural Department that conception is not very difficult to understand, for unlike officers of several other departments, who have executive powers, their capacity of doing good depends entirely on the influence they wield and by persuasion they have to bring about improvement in agricultural production and change the outlook of the cultivators. In fact none of you can succeed unless you have got influence. You have a fine opportunity of doing good to the public and I trust that you will rise equal to the occasion.

The Department ought not to be a mere collection of individuals. Its members should work like a team, harmoniously and happily, not only within the sphere of the particular department, but also in other departments, because no departments can really achieve full succees or get complete results unless it co-operates with other allied departments and similarly other beneficent departments co-operate with it. It is important to bear in mind that there is at present great danger of isolation and departmentalism. The work of the Agricultural Department is closely allied with the Veterinary, Co-operative and Forest Departments, and in the interests of our own work it is essential to establish very close personal and cordial relations with brother officers in other sister departments. There is a tendency now a days on the part of the officers to look more to their rights than to their obligations. For public servants it is most important that they should think of their obligations first and then of their rights. I need not stress the importance of discipline in the department. We must all do our level best to maintain discipline and show obedience to the authorities, where obedience is due. A department without discipline is without foundation."

Public Services—Corruption—Detection during March 1948

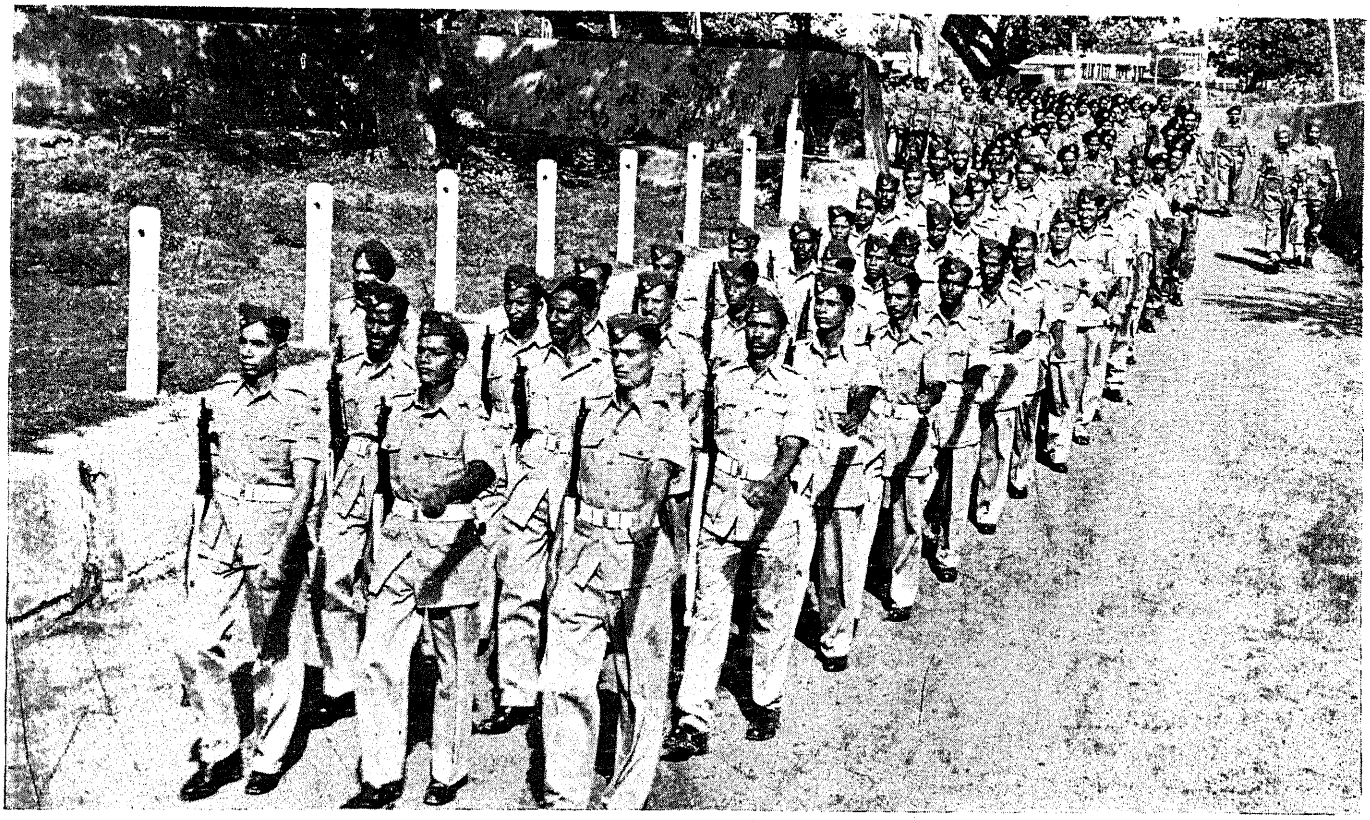
During the month of March 1948 corruption among Government servants was brought to notice against 215 persons including those against whom proceedings were pending at the end of the previous month. Of these 19 were let off as charges against them were not proved and proceedings against 186 were pending at the end of the month. Corruption was successfully detected in the case of the remaining 10 persons and they were suitably punished. The names and designations of these persons and the punishment awarded to them are as follows:—

S. Subbiah Pillai, peon, Sub-Registrar's Office, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli District (Pay reduced); Pitchiah, Police constable, Nellore District and Veeraswamy, constable Railway Police Tiruchirappalli (Dismissed); Arockiaswamy, Constable, Railway Police, Tiruchirappalli (Compulsorily retired); D. M. F. Mitchell, Assistant Transport Officer, Civil Supplies Transport Unit, Bellary (Dismissed); J. Satyanarayana Rao, Overseer, P.W.D., Bezwada Circle (Censured); P. Subbarao, Temporary irrigation gumastha, P.W.D., Dowleshwaram Circle (Pay reduced); S. Ramachandran, Tahsildar, Dharmapuri (compulsorily retired); C. Jogarao Head Clerk, Revenue Divisional Officer's Office, Chicacole, Vizagapatam District (Dismissed); and Veera Pillai, temporary clerk, Factories Department (Discharged from service).

INDEPENDENCE DAY IN MADRAS

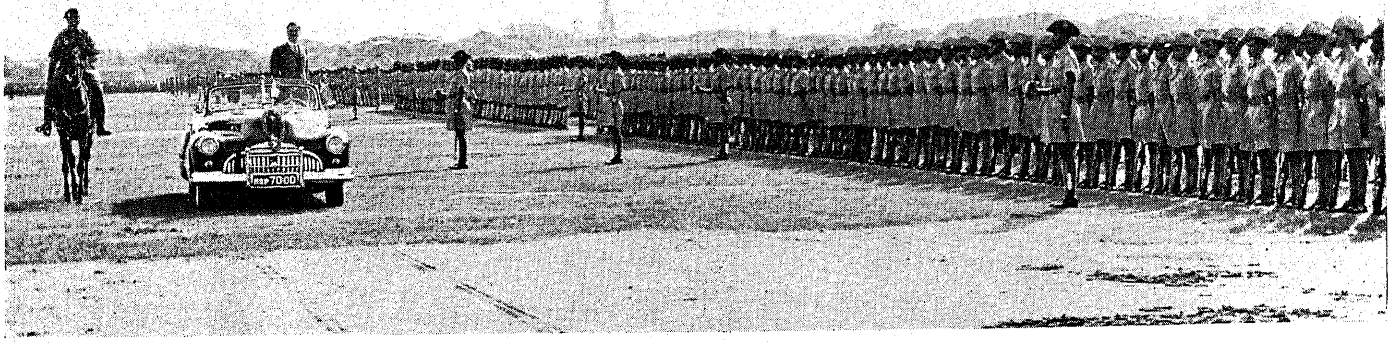
SEP 1948

The Premier with Major-General A. A. Rudra at the Parade grounds

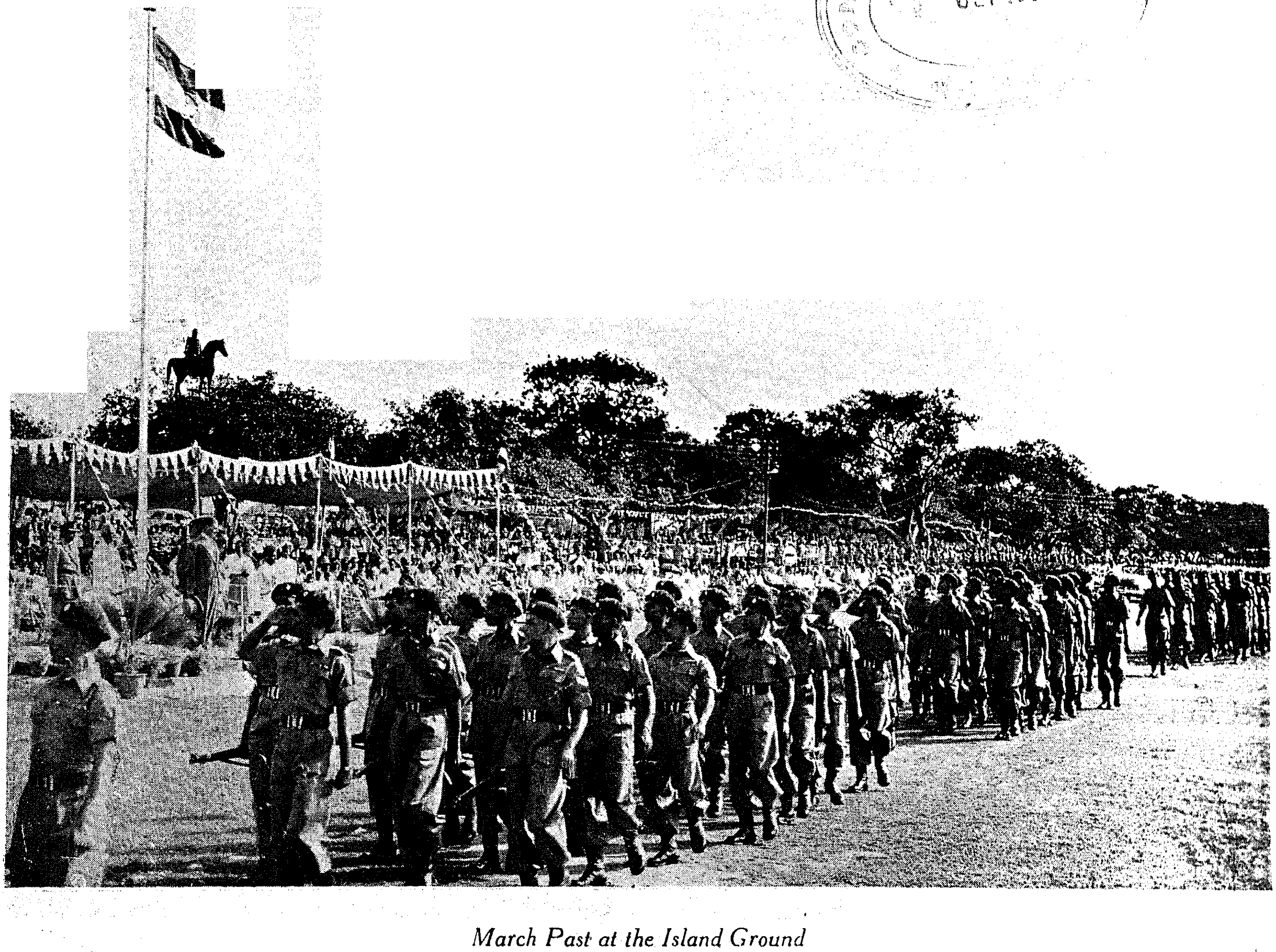


R.I.A.F. marching

INDEPENDENCE DAY—MORE PICTURES

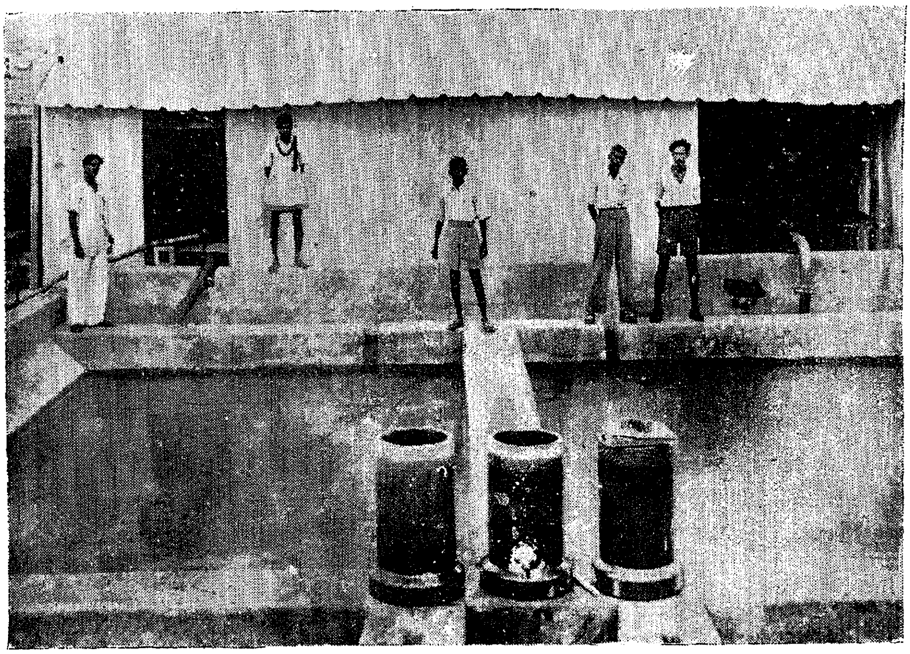


His Excellency the Governor of Madras reviewing the ceremonial Parade at the Island Ground on 15th August 1948



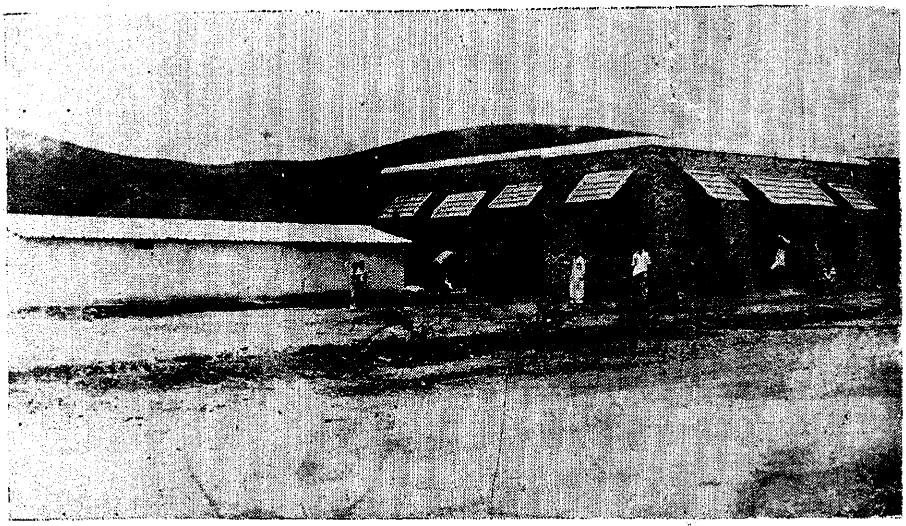
March Past at the Island Ground

AMENITIES FOR LABOURERS IN TUNGABADRA AREA

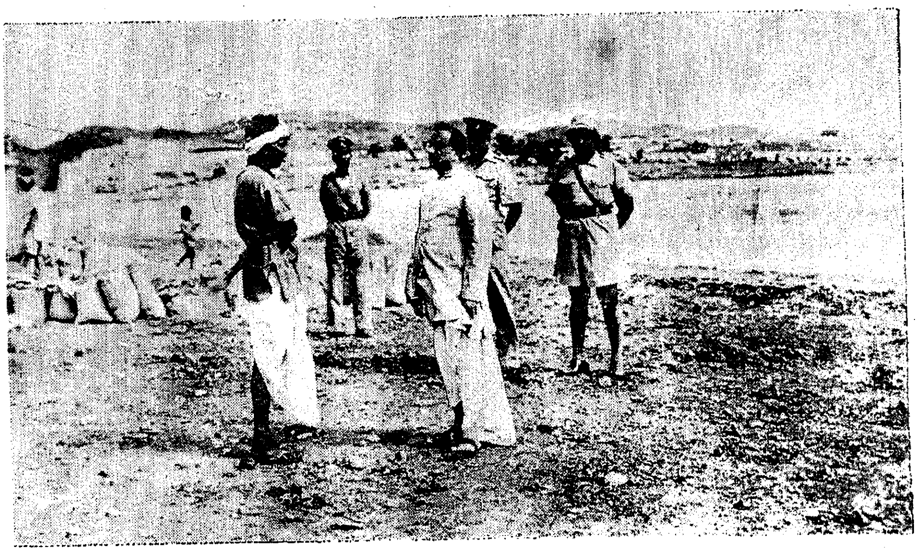


Coagulation Tank and Pumping Shed for temporary Water Supply

CONNEMARA PU...
9 SEP 1948

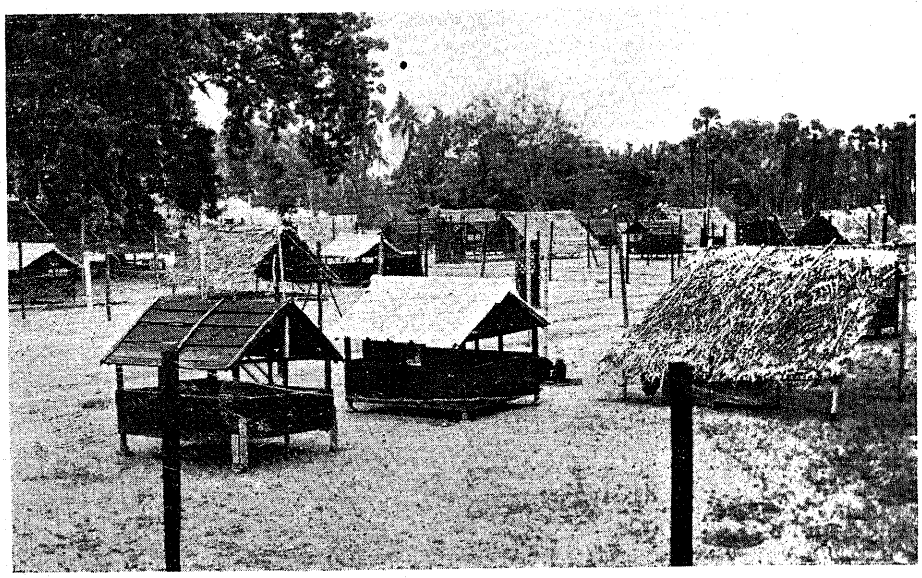


Co-operative stores and godown— a safeguard against high prices

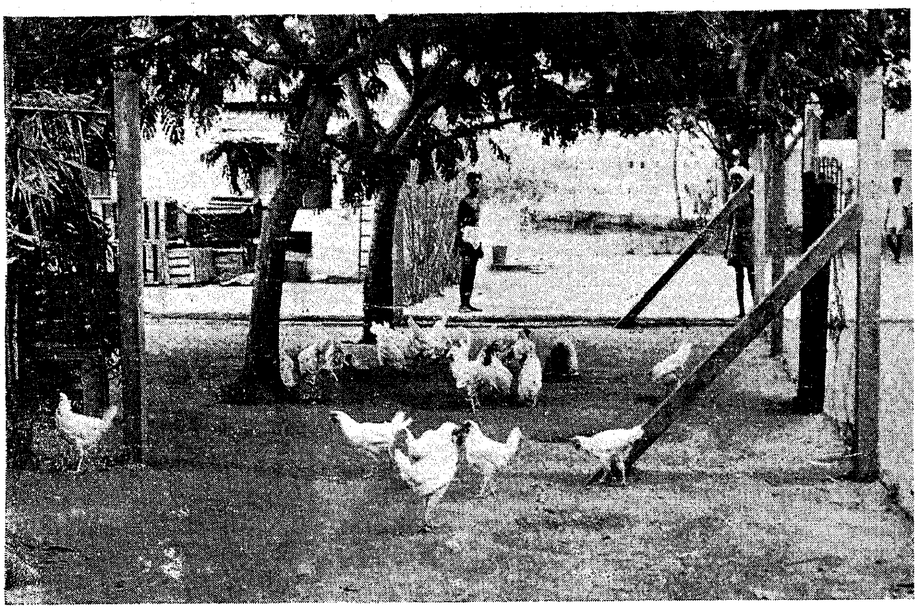


The Hon'ble Minister for Industries enquiring about the welfare of the labourers

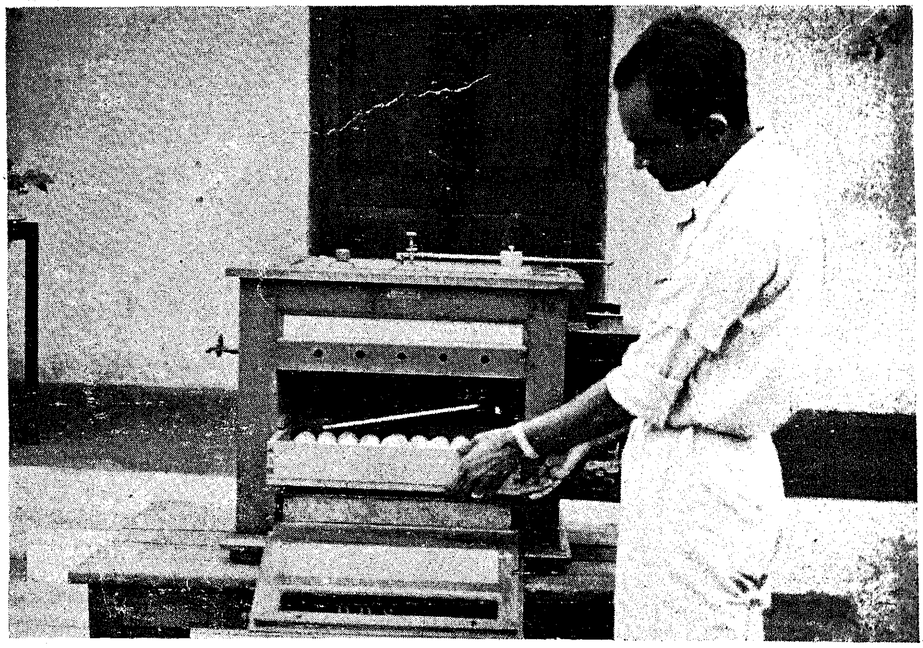
SPOTLIGHT ON GOVERNMENT POULTRY FARM, MADRAS



A general view of the Government Poultry Farm, Madras



Some of the inmates of the Government Poultry Farm. Poultry-keeping is a paying job



This is an incubator. Rows of eggs are arranged in it. Several incubators are maintained in the Poultry Farm

AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY TOPICS

Compost Making

Rao Sahib N. Murugesa Mudaliar spoke about compost manure recently from the A.I.R., Madras. In the course of the broadcast he said:

"Let us see how this compost manure is prepared. A suitable site outside the town or village is selected and pits of about 20 feet long 6 feet broad and 3½ feet depth are prepared. Rubbish should be heaped into the pit up to a layer of about 10 inches. Nightsoil or cowdung is then added on up to a layer of 3 inches. These layers are covered over with a thin layer of earth of about one inch in order to prevent bad smell and fly breeding. This process should go on till the whole pit is filled. Within a few days of filling up the trench, a high temperature of about 70° C. developed in it and it persists for about three or four weeks. As a result of this heat, the nightsoil and rubbish are completely decomposed and the pathogenic organisms that may originally be present in the nightsoil and refuse are destroyed. At the end of about four months the product is found to be a well decomposed, odourless and innocuous manure ready for application to the soil. This process is called the 'Bangalore Process'. The advantages of this method are that the nightsoil and refuse get decomposed quickly because they are added in small layers. Fly nuisance is obviated and the sanitation of the neighbourhood is not affected. The nitrogen content of the organic matter is not also lost to the same extent as it is in the method of open trenching. This process is most popular to-day. The compost manure prepared by this process contains 1 per cent nitrogen, 0·9 per cent phosphoric acid, 0·9 per cent potash. One ton of compost (roughly two cart-loads) is estimated to contain 15 to 20 lb. nitrogen, 12 to 15 lb. phosphoric acid, 300 to 400 lb. of organic matter and a good amount of lime, potash and other nutrients. This compost is considered to be superior to the ordinary farmyard manure in manurial contents.

"The one advantage of the compost manure is that it can be easily had in any place and the price is very cheap. A ton of compost, or about two cart-loads costs roughly on an average about three to four rupees exclusive of cartage. In China and Japan, compost manure is extensively used, as a result of which the yield of crops per acre is much higher than in our country. Western countries which used to incinerate their rubbish or wash it down into the sea are now returning it to the soil to increase agricultural production.

"Compost manure can be prepared in towns and big villages by municipalities and panchayat boards, from nightsoil and street refuse. In villages, farmers themselves can join together and prepare compost from cattle dung, vegetable waste matter and other village refuse. Outside the village, pits should be prepared and all the refuse should be thrown into it in the manner described above. After the compost is prepared the villagers can share it among themselves. By this they will not only keep their villages clean, but they will also get valuable manure worth many thousands of rupees.

"Compost manure can be used for wet as well as dry lands because it is easily dissolved in the soil by previous decomposition, and crops come out very well by the use of this manure. Paddy, ragi, cumbu, cholam, plantain, betel, etc., come out very well with this manure. Vegetables and root crops also give better yields.

Government Measures

"You would now like to know what the Government have done to increase the production of this valuable manure. In 1943 and 1946 the Government gave training at their cost with a grant from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to 68 Sanitary Inspectors in all from various municipalities in the process of compost manufacture. They have also issued instructions to all municipalities and big panchayats to undertake the preparation of compost and sell them to ryots through co-operative societies or direct. They have also arranged with the Revenue department to give on lease to municipalities, vacant spaces for preparing compost. For the transport of rubbish and compost, the Agricultural department has been asked to lend their lorries to the municipalities. Further, with a grant from the Central Government, a subsidy of 12 annas per 50 c.ft. of compost is paid to municipalities in order to be passed on to ryots who purchase it and put it on the soil. An expenditure of Rs. 63,000 was sanctioned in 1947-48 on account of this and half the expenditure is met by the Central Government. The Government have also sanctioned the carrying out of experiments to study the relative response of farmyard manure and compost of various crops at various Agricultural Research Stations at a cost of Rs. 54,000. They have sanctioned the opening of demonstration plots at 82 centres near municipalities and panchayats to prove the value of compost manuring. The Agricultural department has been asked to popularise the use of compost by leaflets and films. The Government have also sanctioned a subsidy of Rs. 24,000 for digging compost pits for compost making in villages. Village composting is done in about 2,300 villages producing a total quantity of 300,000 c.ft. or 6,000 tons."

—*By Courtesy, A.I.R., Madras.*

Fight Against Insect Pest

The Government of India have been holding Storage and Inspection Courses at the Centre as well as in different regions of the country in order to minimise depredations of foodgrains by insect pests both in the field and storage, and to improve the quality of grains marketed in the country.

It has now been decided to hold a course in Plant Protection also. One such combined courses is in progress in Nagpur.

The Common Contagious Diseases of Poultry in the Madras Presidency

The poultry industry, is receiving more attention in the Madras Presidency now than in the past and it is desirable that all of you who are interested in poultry breeding should have some knowledge of the contagious diseases that attack poultry. The economics of the industry are governed solely by disease and there is nothing more disheartening to the poultry breeder than to see his entire flock wiped out. This evening I am going to speak to you about the most serious contagious diseases that attack poultry in this Presidency and I hope my talk will help those of you who keep poultry to recognize an outbreak in its early stages so that control measures can be put into operation at once before the epidemic gets out of hand.

Poultry diseases are now receiving more attention by the Veterinary Department and I might mention that Government have appointed a special officer to investigate into poultry diseases. He is at present confining his attention chiefly to Ranikhet disease, a disease which is perhaps the most fatal disease of poultry and one which is the most difficult to control.

The diseases about which I shall talk to you this evening are Ranikhet disease, Fowl-pox, Fowl cholera and Spirochaetosis.

Ranikhet disease.—This disease is a new disease to India and was reported first in this Presidency in 1927. It is the most fatal contagious disease of fowls and is fairly widespread. It is very contagious and when it breaks out, many fowls will be found dying in quick succession. When the disease runs a very acute course the birds are not seen to be visibly ill, death resulting in twelve to twenty-four hours. In other cases, the affected birds show dullness, disinclination to move even when disturbed, a gurgling noise is heard in the throat, and mucous saliva dribbles from the beak. The bird looses weight rapidly and there is weakness of the legs follows later by paralysis and drooping of one or both the wings. A greenish white diarrhœa is present. Exhaustion follows terminating in coma and death—the fowl being ill about a week. Some fowls may live longer but become paralysed.

The infective agent is contained in the saliva, nasal discharge and droppings. The disease is, therefore, spread by contamination from the droppings and the nasal secretions. The feet of man and animals, utensils and clothing coming in contact with the contagion may transmit the disease. Birds introduced into the flock from unknown sources often spread the disease.

Prevention consists in the destruction of sick birds; separating the flock into as many batches as possible, thorough disinfection of the poultry yard, and quarantining for not less than three weeks any newly purchased adultry and those that have returned from poultry exhibits. It is advisable not to import fresh stock till the subsidence of the disease. A new vaccine for the protection of birds against the disease has been evolved and owners of fowls may apply to the nearest officer of the Veterinary Department for protecting their fowls against the disease. Potassium Permanganate crystals or a few drops of Tincture of Iodine may be added to the drinking water.

Fowl-pox.—Another common disease is Fowl-pox, also known as 'Chicken-pox.' It is a rapidly spreading infectious disease which affects fowls, pigeons and turkeys. It generally occurs during the hot season.

The introduction of new birds is frequently associated with an outbreak. It takes about 4 to 10 days for the first symptoms to appear and it is advisable to isolate during this period, all new birds purchased. Birds get infected by coming into contact with diseased birds.

The first signs of the disease are small red pimples which appear on the comb, around the eyes, upon the wattles and upon the thinly feathered parts of the head. The pimples develop into rough, yellow, warlike nodules, from the size of pinhead to that of a pea, which tend to join together into Cauliflower-like masses. The nodules contain a small quantity of whitish fluid which is rich in the disease producing organisms. Later these nodules erupt on the surface and result in the condition known as sore-head. In a mild form, the nodules heal up quickly leaving a dry scab and the bird slowly recovers from the disease. In severe cases, these nodules spread to the surrounding parts as the eyes, mouth, nose, etc., in which case death may occur. The nasal passage becomes blocked with the exudate and the birds breathe through the mouth. When the mouth is affected the bird does not feed properly and when it affects the eyes, the exudate completely sticks the eyelids together and causes temporary blindness. Diarrhœa may be present and death occurs generally in 4 or 5 days but sometimes the birds linger for weeks when they become extremely exhausted and die.

The disease is transmitted from one bird to another very rapidly by the infected pus of the sick bird coming into contact with wounds caused by packing and fighting, or it may be spread by the attendants looking after poultry.

Prevention consists in the careful observation of new additions to the flock and quarantining them before they are mixed with the flock; the sick birds should be separated at once and treated; the poultry cages, feeding and water troughs, utensils, runs, etc., should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected; sick birds should be given soft and easily digestible food such as wheat or rice bran, greens, chopped cabbage and onions; the drinking water should be medicated with a few crystals of Potassium Permanganate. Curative treatment for sore-head consists in washing the lesions with an antiseptic such as 2 per cent carbolic acid lotion and applying carb-zinc ointment. The eyes should be washed with 2 per cent boric lotion. All the incontact birds should be vaccinated which is very valuable and this can be arranged by reporting the outbreak to the nearest Veterinary Officer.

Fowl cholera.—This is another highly contagious disease affecting poultry and is usually acute and rapid

in its course and accompanied by high mortality. It is caused by an organism which can be seen in the blood of affected birds by microscopical examination. The disease is so acute that often no symptoms are observed and the birds are found dead under their roosts or in their nests. The disease is characterized by high fever, the temperature rising sharply to 109 to 112 degrees Fahrenheit. The affected birds become droopy with disinclination to move; if forced to move, they will stagger in their gait; the feathers are ruffled; the breathing is laboured. The droppings are watery greenish yellow and foetid and the feathers around the vent are soiled.

The germs are eliminated from the body of diseased birds in the bowel discharges and in the saliva, both of which infect the soil and pollute the drinking water and feed of the flock, thus spreading the disease to healthy birds. Droppings may remain infective for as long as three months. The disease is generally introduced by newly purchased infected birds into the healthy flocks.

If the disease breaks out, segregation and disinfection are the first steps to be undertaken. The infected birds should be destroyed and burnt. Great care should be taken that no blood is spilt, as this would contaminate the soil. Buttermilk which inhabite the growth of bacteria in the intestines with the aid of the lactic acid it contains, can be freely given. The drinking water can be medicated with potassium permanganate crystals.

The injection of an anti-serum is helpful in cutting short the progress of the disease. In farms where the disease is enzootic the best measure is to protect the birds periodically with a vaccine which is available at the Serum Institute, Madras. This inoculation can be arranged by reporting to the nearest Veterinary Assistant Surgeon.

Fowl spirochaetosis.—This is fairly widespread in India and is usually fatal in young birds particularly those of highly selected strains. It is also known as the tick fever of poultry because the disease is spread by the bite of a tick which attacks the fowls at night.

Sometimes the disease occurs in such an acute form that birds apparently healthy at night are found dead in the morning. In sub-acute forms, there is drowsiness, somnolence, loss of appetite, bluis comb and greenish diarrhœa. Birds rapidly weaken, are unable to roost, spread eagle on the ground, the bird lying helpless death occurs suddenly with convulsions.

The radical method of controlling the disease is by eradicating the ticks and this is a matter which requires patience. In fire-proof poultry houses, using fire in the form of a blow-lamp to the crevices and joints where the ticks usually lurk, isolating the birds at night and keeping the roosts under receptacles containing tar have been claimed to attain this objective.

Ailing birds may be cured by injecting specific drugs which can be done by the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon.

To sum up, the first essential in poultry diseases is a correct diagnosis and then prophylactic measures can be adopted accordingly. Poultry can be immunized against ranikhet disease, fowl-pox and fowl cholera and successfully treated when suffering from spirochaetosis or tick fever.

Agricultural Research in America

In their effort to produce more food on the same amount of land to meet the needs of an increased population at home as well as the huge overseas demand, American farmers are receiving valuable aid and information from various sources of extensive agriculture research like U.S. Government agencies, agricultural schools and private concerns. Various machines have greatly stepped up efficiency in field work. New mixtures of feed, new feeds from industrial waste and many time and labour-saving methods have resulted from such research.

American farmers, faced with the problem of increasing production on the same amount of land to meet the needs both of an increased population at home as well as huge overseas demand, are receiving valuable information from various sources of extensive agriculture research. In the national effort to produce and conserve foodstuffs, the scientific research being carried on by the U.S. Government, agricultural schools, and private concerns has assumed a vital role.

Many of the 5,000 feed firms in the United States operate research farms, which are constantly seeking better mixtures of feed that will result in bigger hogs for marketing, more eggs per hen, more milk per cow. By improving these feeds, less amounts are necessary.

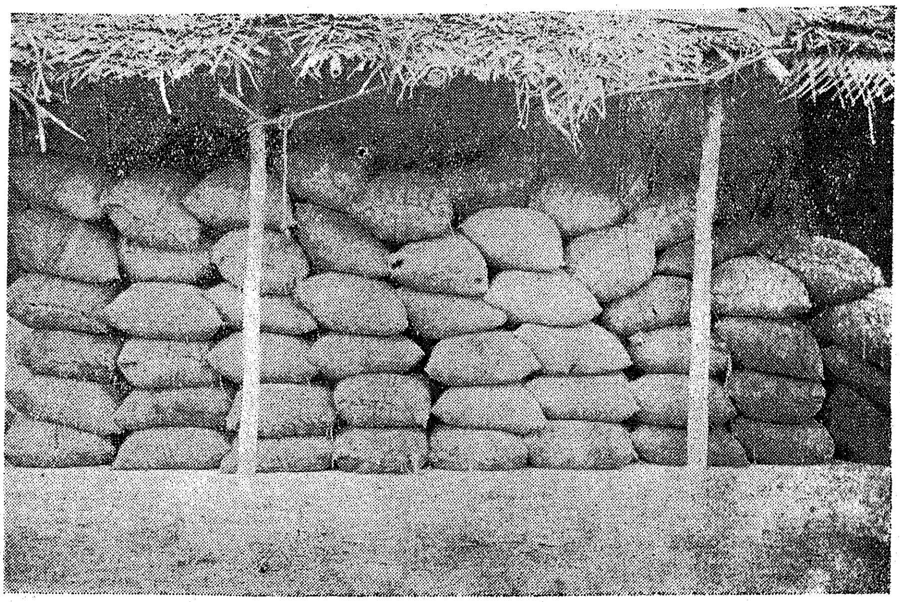
Furthermore, these research farms demonstrate better methods of feeding. These methods are often as startling in their simplicity as in their results. For example, the General Mills Research Farm near Detroit, Michigan, found that hogs grew much faster if they had been given plenty of water when small. They also discovered that it is better to market hogs at a certain weight, since their growth beyond that weight requires excessive amounts of feed.

Other discoveries include ways of weaning calves sooner, producing more eggs per hen through a balanced diet, methods of culling out unproductive chickens. Cows were found to produce extra milk if dandruff was removed from their skins several times a week with an electric vacuum cleaner such as that used by the farmer's wife in the house.

Further savings are being made by discovering feed uses from new sources, including industrial by-products which formerly had been hauled away as waste.

Meanwhile, agricultural schools and experiment stations have been helping farmers to do their jobs faster and easier. Machines have greatly stepped up efficiency in field work, and Government studies show that a greater part of the farmer's time is now spent around the farm buildings and in caring for animals.

HELP TO AGRICULTURISTS

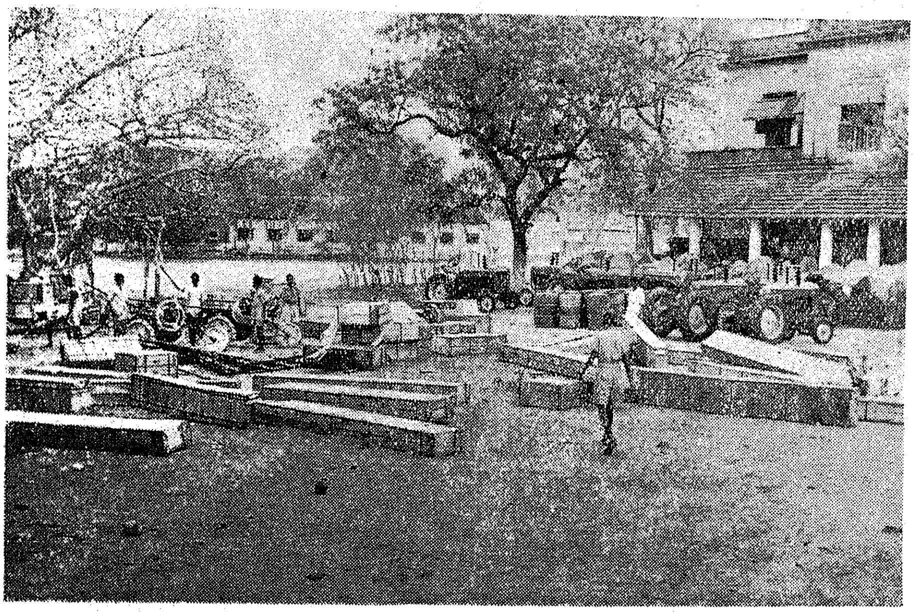


Groundnut cake is good manure. These groundnut cake bags are awaiting distribution to agriculturists

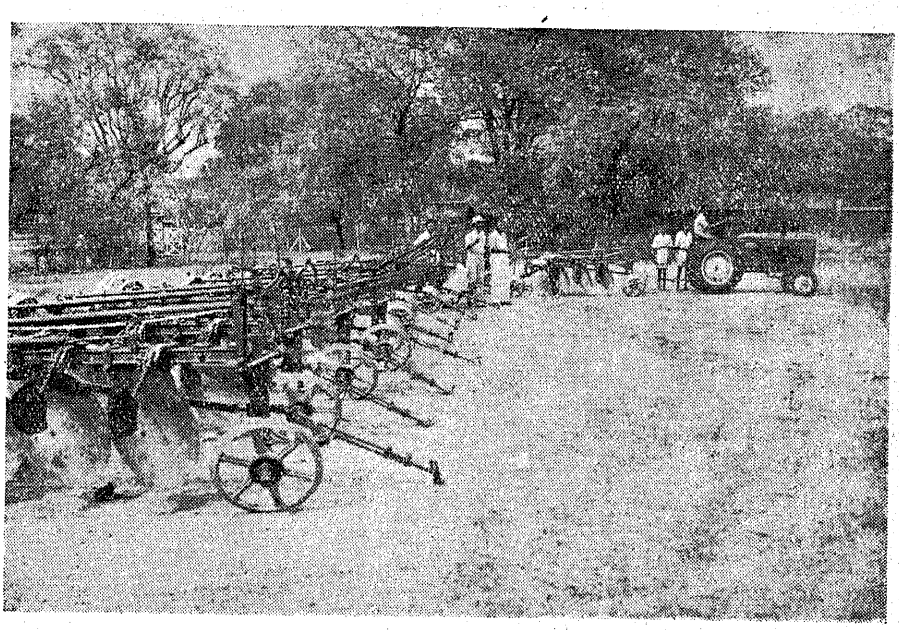
Groundnut cake bags being loaded in bullock carts for agriculturists

Ammonium phosphate is being sold in retail to agriculturists

MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE



These boxes contain spare parts of Tractors. These parts are assembled in Madras



The Tractors are awaiting despatch to various districts

Agricultural implements are also distributed to ryots at cost price

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Museums and Education

By DR. A. AIYAPPAN, *Superintendent, Government Museum, Madras*

The United States of America has the most *effective* museum service in the whole world. By *effective* I mean the capacity to reach the public and draw it to the museum galleries and raise the level of knowledge, information and critical appreciation of our vast environment which is now the whole world. Some of the larger musuems of Europe, such as the British Museum and the museums of Paris and Berlin, may have larger collections, but none of them can claim the wide popularity and effectiveness of the museums of the United States.

It seems as if museums have become an integral part of the cultural life of Americans. Some of the largest museums of the United States are privately endowed institutions, and a good proportion of others are supported by subscriptions. Every one of them is the centre of the intellectual life of the public.

The following note in a recent issue of *Nature* gives us an idea of the directions in which American museums are advancing :

> "The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has again shown commendable enterprise in extending its educational influence to a much larger public than habitual museum visitors . . . through the courtesy of the American broadcasting station, W.E.W.S., it is now presenting a monthly television programme called "Your Museum of Natural History." Two general programmes have already been televised, one dealing with the timely subject of the Navaho Indians, and the other with the recent gift to the Museum of the works of John J. Audbon, including the famous early nineteenth century English prints of Havell. There is also a weekly television programme built round the Museum's explorers club for children ; subjects so far presented include the Apache Indians, fur-bearing mammals, care of pets, bird migration and signs of spring."

Museums are potent instruments of creation. In America their resources are being fully utilized. In U.S.S.R. the peaseant museums have done wonderful work. This article, *inter alia* **refers to what museums can do in the reconstruction of this country.**

Television, of course, is the latest of the means of public contact which American museums have adopted to extend the scope of their activities. In fact, the Americans have pressed into service all propaganda devices to do publicity for their museums.

Americans and Museums

This attitude towards museums requires explanation because we, in India, have, so far, followed the unprogressive ideals of the English in this respect. Americans, it is sometimes suggested, are so wealthy that they spend their surplus money on museums and art galleries. This, of course, is too native an explanation to be acceptable to any but the detractors of American culture. According to the Americans themselves, "the task of museum authorities is often primarily political to arouse the community to a sense of democratic need in the sharing of artistic and intellectual culture." The museums of America are the results of the general recognition of the right of every citizen to enjoy the cultural opportunities which in Europe and Asia were until recently the privilege of the aristocratic few. In the United States, the leaders of public opinion, the leaders in education and others in position of authority very clearly realized that it paid in the long run to have well-informed voters. In this democratic task, the museums of America have played a very important part by actively helping in the education of the young and old. The greatest outside propaganda done for museums is by the American Association for Adult Education.

Museums in U.S.S.R.

From the scanty literature on Russian museums available to us, it is found that the museum movement in the U.S.S.R. is gett'ng very strong. Several of the old palaces there were converted into museums for the working classes. In his address to the National Academy of Sciences, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, then President of the Indian National Congress, referred in the following terms to the peasant museums of the U.S.S.R. :—

> "I should like an aggressive and widespread tackling of our problems by experts. I should like permanent museums for the education of our masses, especially the peasantry, to grow up in every district. I remember the wonderful peasant museums which I saw in the U.S.S.R., and I compared them with the pitiful agricultural exhibitions which are organized here from time to time."

The common man's cultural and intellectual needs are better met in Russia than in most European countries though perhaps not to the same extent as in U.S.A., but the significance of the development of museums in Russia cannot be underrated ; it very definitely shows that the Government there too is wedded to the task of creating a well-informed body politic.

Museums in India

The museums of India came into being about a century back to meet the commercial and scientific needs of the European ruling group but they very considerately allowed the tax-payers to view the collections in

the galleries which were arranged in such a way as to be of use only to those knowing English. Art collections to which the public had access were very few indeed and the position with regard to art galleries still remains very bad. The best collections of paintings in India are in the possession of Rajas and zamindars, several of whom would not even lend them for public exhibitions. With the exception of the Tatas and very few others, no rich possessors of art collections in India have made them over to the public. If one may put it so, the democratic idea has influenced the rich in India to be sufficiently public-minded to think of the common man and let him experience the joy of appreciating "things of beauty." But conditions will not remain static, the common man is likely to demand his legitimate share in the cultural, intellectual and artistic life of the nation, and the Government and the leaders of culture will respond adequately. Then will the museums of India too come to their own but museum workers are already alive to the calls that will be made on them and are preparing for their future tasks.

Hitherto the functions of museums in India were recognized to be threefold : (1) the collection of exhibits, (2) their conservation and (3) the interpretation of the collections. In the first category comes the very important task of protecting for posterity the artistic treasures valued by the nation, of which the larger museums contains several examples (see for example the specimen in fig. 3). The bombing of museums during the last war was regarded with as much horror and concern as the bombing of hospitals : this is an index of the value attached to national museums and the collections in them by all civilized nations of the world. Education of the public did not find the place which it deserved in the programmes of work of most of our museums ; the education of the young was considered as the special field of the teachers for which museums had no contribution to make ; and no one thought that the adult in India stood in any need of being educated. The museums of free India have to reorient their policy to make themselves useful to the common man.

Value of Museums

With the brilliant examples of American and Russian Museums before us, there need be no doubt about the capacity of museums to be effective instruments in adult education. I shall however illustrate the point by telling an example. When Shrimati Susheta Kripalani visited the Madras Government Museum in April 1947, among the exhibits which attracted her special attention were a number of charts. These charts show the evolution of the scripts of the various South Indian languages from the Brahmi script used in Asoka's inscriptions. The various modern scripts of North India are also derived from Brahmi. Thus, with no central authority imposing a common script on the peoples of the North and South, India of the third century B.C. had a common script. These charts and the original inscriptions exhibited in the Madras Museum demonstrated factually, without any recourse to arguments, to Mrs. Kripalani one fact of the unity of India long long before any one thought of the question. Now, if you want to impress on any one the fact of the cultural unity of India—there are still many who doubt it—is there a better way of proving it than the one I have cited here ? Every museum worth the name contains within it ample materials which can be turned to good use for the better education of the common man, though, of course, a change of emphasis is needed. In an article published in *Madras Information* some time ago, I have indicated how museums can help in the basic education plan of the Government. With a view to this end, more habit at group are being put in. To make it possible for the illiterate visitor to profit by his visit to the Museum, the Government of Madras have sanctioned the appointment of two assistant curators whose chief duty will be to explain the exhibits in the Museum to parties of illiterate and semi-literate visitors. Explanatory labels in Tamil and Telugu are being added in the various galleries, but the Chief difficulty at present is the paucity of technical terms. Slowly butsurely the Madras Museum is adapting itself to perform its cultural functions in a free democratic state.

Another new line of work, now in the initial stages, is the extension of museum service to the rural areas. The real India is in the villages and a few museums in urban areas can never hope to cover the thousands of villages. As experiment in rural museum will soon be tried in the firkas selected for intensive development ; and if the experiment succeeds, we might envisage the free flow of circulating collections from the Provincial Central Museum to the rural museums.

Public are associated with working of the Employment Exchange. Picture shows the Collector of Madras addressing the representatives of Employers and Labour.

PROBLEMS AND PROGRESS ELSEWHERE

Bombay

The total achievements of the Government of Bombay during one year of India's freedom are inextricably bound up with the policy and decisions taken by the Ministry earlier. Many of the plans and schemes sanctioned earlier were, during this period, either implemented administratively or continued in their implementation. In view of this continuity in administrative action, it is necessary to trace back the beginning of the various reforms introduced actually before August 15, 1947, inasmuch as they were continued during the year of complete freedom.

Education

Primary education.—The recent legislation makes the way clear for free, compulsory primary education throughout the Province. It involves 32 lakhs of children in villages. First, larger villages will be taken up and the system extended later to smaller ones. Government will bear 50 per cent of expenditure.

Craft training.—The Government has introduced craft training in schools and has been getting crafts' teachers trained in private institutions. The cost of training is Rs. 1·30 crores for three years non-recurring and Rs. 60·8 lakhs recurring. The crafts consist of spinning, weaving, agriculture and wood-work.

Physical education.—Physical training was reorganized with the introduction of revised and improved diploma course comprising of Indian games and all modern features. Some of the measures adopted by the Government are special pay for teachers holding P.T. diploma, appointments of 12 Assistant Deputy Educational Inspectors for P.T., recognition to private institutions holding P.T. short-term courses, grants to gymnasia and grant for the library and laboratory at the Kandivali Institute.

Technical education.—The mechanical and electrical engineering training facilities have been established at the V.J.T. Institute of Bombay and a large number of students trained there. Degree courses have also been introduced.

Adult education.—A scheme of adult education costing Rs. 58 lakhs with a target of 665,000 literates between the age groups of 15 and 40 beginning with 900 classes in the first year increased gradually to 1,780 in the tenth year was sanctioned. Under this scheme, each taluka is to have a centre at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,400. Special provision has been made for equipment and other grants in backward areas. One of the features of this scheme is that children are employed to teach adults. Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, Minister for Labour, was appointed President of the Bombay City Adult Education Committee.

Visual education.—The Technical Advisory Board for Visual Education and Visual Education Advisory Board were appointed to advise Government in organizing audio-visual education in the Province and a five-year scheme of visual education costing Rs. 14,60,000 was sanctioned. Under this scheme, projectors are to be purchased and educational films both purchased and produced to meet the demands of audio-visual education.

Agriculture.—A new policy of tenure of waste lands was formulated during the period under review. Preference was given, in accordance with the Government's policy, to co-operative societies while the terms of tenancy were re-fixed with a view to preventing misuse, exploitation and neglect of potentialities of the land for improved food production. Twenty-thousand seven hundred and eighty acres of land were given for growing more food. A five-year scheme for growing vegetables was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 3,00,000 and subsidy offered to encourage cultivation of sweet potatoes. A nucleus seeds scheme was similarly sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 59,000 and it covers a period of five years.

Another scheme of purchase of ammonium sulphate and its supply to agriculturists was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 4,00,000. Agricultural implements were frozen for distribution to the needy agriculturists and legislative action taken to deal with the

"Our troubles during the past year were largely the result of this narrowness in outlook, and pettiness in action which is so foreign to India's great cultural inheritance. Communalism threatened to crush the free spirit in us, the communalism of the Muslim, of the Hindu, and of the Sikh, Provincialism came in the way of that larger unity which is so essential to India's greatness and progress. The spirit of faction spread and made us forget the big things that we had stood for.

"We have to find ourselves again, and go back to the free India of our dreams, We have to rediscover the old values and place them in the new setting of a free India. For freedom brings responsibility, and can only be sustained by self-discipline, hard work, and the spirit of a free people.

"So let us be rid of everything that limits us and degrades us. Let us cast out fear and communalism and provincialism. Let us build up a free and democratic India, where the interest of the masses of our people has always the first place to which all other interests must submit. Freedom has no meaning unless it brings relief to these masses from their many burdens.

"Democracy means tolerance, tolerance not merely of those who agree with us, but of those who do not agree with us. With the coming of freedom our patterns of behaviour must change also so as to fit in with this freedom."

PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

problems of agricultural pests and diseases as some landlords appeared to be apathetic towards the need of controlling them.

A five-year compost-making scheme was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 5,00,000. The scheme is expected to yield 500,000 tons of compost manure sufficient to meet the needs of 100,000 acres of irrigated land with a corresponding crop production of 390,000 maunds of additional foodgrain.

Land improvement.—Government has concentrated on improving agricultural production and launched a number of schemes of land improvement, improved methods of cultivation and various types of aid to agriculturists.

Water-supply facilities.—Engines, pumps and belting have been supplied to agriculturists. An order for more of these of the value of Rs. 26,45,000 has been placed with the Government of India.

Power and hand-boring machines have been lent to agriculturist to establish well water facilities. Larger number of wells, tanks and bandharas have been constructed to provide water for irrigation purposes. Agriculturists are also given expert advice in well boring.

Mechanical cultivation.—Mechanical tractors are lent at concessional hiring rates for deep and shallow ploughing and thousands of acres have been ploughed in various districts.

Agriculturists' sons are given free training in handling and repairs to oil engines.

Supply of iron and steel.—Agriculturists are helped with supply of iron and steel and implements at controlled rates through the agency of the District Rural Development Boards, co-operative societies, etc. The sales amounted to Rs. 25,30,000 during the period of October 1946 to July 1947.

Research.—Important soil research has been carried out and schemes have been introduced for land improvement, arrest of soil erosion, etc.

Minor irrigation.—A new section has been established under Agricultural Department to carry out minor irrigation works, i.e., construction of tanks, bandharas, etc. The annual expenditure on this organization is Rs. 7,50,000. During the current year it is proposed to spend Rs. 19,50,000 on works which form part of a five-year post-war reconstruction scheme.

Taluka demonstration centres.—Practically each taluka has had a demonstration centre where agriculturists are given help and advice to adopt improved methods of production.

Foodcrops Act, 1944.—This Act has been introduced to encourage improved production of foodcrops and has been applied to various districts.

Seeds improvement schemes.—Five schemes have been continued. In addition, three more for improvement of paddy and other cereals have been introduced. Their cost is estimated at Rs. 13,27,000 spread over five years.

Subsidies of Rs. 15 per acre are paid for encouraging hot-weather crops.

Seed is also distributed for rabbi and kharif season.

Other schemes.—A sweet potato extension scheme in several districts has been sanctioned at a cost of two lakhs. It will bring about 1,000 additional acres under cultivation.

Labour welfare.—A special department attends to the welfare of labour. There are welfare centres in Bombay, Ahmedabad and six other industrial centres in the Province. These have been developed and their service improved and extended.

These centres provide recreation of every type, instruction and training to workers and their children. Cinema films, sports, circulating libraries, theatres, music, gymnastics, literary classes, sewing classes for women and other amenities are offered at these centres. There are 151 library posts at the centres. An industrial training centre has been opened at Ahmedabad which imparts useful training to workers for alternative employment and improves their technical efficiency.

Industries.—The Provincial Industries Committee has been set up for policy-making. Help and facilities have been given to textile, cement and other industries in the Province. Other industries are silk manufacture and bobbin production and they are being developed.

Aid to industries.—Valuable assistance has been given to various enterprises in the form of loans, facilities of supplies of raw materials and stores. A grant of Rs. 75,000 per annum for five years to the India Government's Indian Standards Institution for development of industries has been sanctioned.

Bureau of economics and statistics.—The bureau has been established with a small staff to prepare statistical studies in various subjects of administrative importance. It brings out a *Bulletin* and carries out surveys for the various Departments of Government. Statistical studies are necessary for planning and the Bureau has been found very useful not only to this Government but also to other Governments and Agencies.

Public Works

Roads.—Considerable expenditure has been incurred on the maintenance and repairs of roads. The new programme covers 30,881 miles and Rs. 5·66 crores have been allotted for five years. The Government of India has allotted Rs. 3 crores for the national highways during this period.

Irrigation.—The Deccan canals system with the capital outlay of Rs. 9 crores has been maintained to aid the increased food production drive. Important concessions have been given to agriculturists who grow foodcrops. The area under sugarcane cultivation has been curtailed to encourage growth of foodcrops.

Twenty-five irrigation works of construction of tanks and bandharas have been taken up. Out of these, 12 have been completed and others are in progress. River lift irrigation schemes were also taken up. These works, when completed, will irrigate an area of 33,567 acres and bring yield of 13,056 tons of food-grain and 1,310 tons of fodder.

In addition a big and ambitious, longrange programme of projects costing Rs. 9·5 crores during five years has been drawn up and various dam projects are to be completed during this year.

Public Health projects.—Valuable help has been given to the various municipalities and local bodies. Thus, water famine during the summer of 1947 at Sholapur was averted with the construction of an emergency scheme costing Rs. 13 lakhs. The Government has undertaken to execute five big water-supply schemes during the next five years although they are a liability of the municipalities concerned. A provision of Rs. 9·5 crores has been made for the five-year programme.

Mobile hospital units.—Three 50-bedded mobile hospital units have been sanctioned and one has aready started work. Thirty-six centres of combined medical and health units have also been sanctioned. Fifteen units have been partially established and others are being formed. They will co-ordinate

curative and preventive aspects of medical work in the districts.

Rural Relief Scheme.—Under the scheme, medical practitioners are subsidised to practise at main centres in villages. In addition to the large number of such centres, 125 more are to be added. Where these centres cannot be opened, the Village Aid Scheme is to be introduced.

Cottage hospitals.—The existing dispensaries are being converted into cottage hospitals with facilities for aftercare treatment. Five such hospitals have already been opened.

Medico-cum-propaganda units.—There are 9 units of this type that serve aborigines and hill tribes and cater to their needs.

Village water supply.—The programme of supply of clean water to villagers includes digging of wells, construction of tanks, etc. At the end of September 1947, 145 works were completed and 1,016 were in progress. Rs. 26 lakhs have been provided for during this year while the five-year scheme is estimated to cost roughly Rs. 2½ crores.

Co-operation.—The Government of India's Saraiya Committee recommendations have recently been examined by the Government in the light of the local conditions and a definite plan of expansion out-lined.

Animal husbandry.—Government has introduced a number of schemes in order to improve cattle, sheep and poultry. Efforts are made to popularize improved breeds of cattle and promote dairy development.

Assam

Education

In the field of education, the Ministry has made remarkable progress. As already mentioned, the Gauhati University has come into existence and substantial funds have been provided to the University. Generous grants for spread of primary education and encouragement of vernacular education in the Middle Schools in view of the importance of the vernacular language was made during the year under review. Training Centres for primary teachers were opened in important towns.

Ministry passed the Assam Compulsory Primary Education Act 1947 with a view to introducing compulsory primary education in the Province. A Special Officer has been engaged for the purpose of preparing the preliminary work in that connection. Necessary budget provision has been made and it is expected that from April this year the Act will be put into operation. The Mass Literacy Campaign which was already there could not yield satisfactory result due to lack of public interest. The Ministry has proposed to intensify this campaign in the current year.

The Government has given special stress on basic education but have not been able to obtain adequate results. At present teachers for Basic Education Schools are being trained at Jamia Milia or Wardha. Government have already taken a scheme in hand for training College where such teachers would be trained. This college will also train teachers for Academic High Schools. Five centres of compact areas have also been established by the Government in five places in the province.

With a view to meeting the growing demands of the students particularly of the tribal areas, the number of scholarships has been considerably increased. The primary school teachers' pay was raised last year from Rs. 12 to Rs. 20 per month which will be raised further to Rs. 30 this year. The increased grants-in-aid to the Government Aided High Schools and raising of dearness allowance are some of the measures which the Ministry has been able to take for the amelioration of the grievances of the non-Government School teachers.

The language policy of the Government has not yet been announced, but it is intended that English will have no place in the curriculum up to the middle school standard.

Rural Development

The blue print for rural development of the province was announced by the Ministry in October 1947, on the occasion of the Gandhiji's birth-day. The Premier placed it before the country in appropriate terms emphasising that the rural development schemes which the Government have in view would form the very basis of our society and the country. The Government proposè, according to the Five-Year Development Plan, to develop the villages under 720 rural development centres spread all over the province at the rate of 142 every year. In addition to these 78 Model Villages will be started during the period of 5 years and these Model Villages will be built on scientific lines so that the rural population may develop themselves on these lines. Self-sufficiency and self-help will be the guiding principles of the plan. It is expected that if the plan is implemented under capable men, it will give the 96 per cent of our villagers real Local Self-Government and ultimately usher in an era of "Real Swaraj" of Gandhiji's conception.

In the estimate of the Government the Rural Development project has been of great importance and the Government are going to start a Rural Development Workers Training Institute so that the persons entrusted with rural development schemes might be properly trained.

The Ministry has already brought in the Assam Assembly the "Assam Rural Panchayat Bill, 1948" with the said object in view. Over rupees six crores have been allotted to spend on the rural development scheme.

A separate department called the "Rural Development" department has been set up. Other departments such as the Co-operative department, the Industry department and other such departments of the Government will co-ordinate the activities connected with the welfare affairs of the villagers.

The Government has in the meantime decided to appoint officers so that the Rural Development Scheme which according to the Premier of Assam is a revolutionary measure, that the Government want to launch, may be put into operation immediately after the Bill becomes an Act.

Industry

Having regard to the importance of nationalisation of Industry, the Ministry had already accepted the principle and appointed an Industrial Adviser to collect facts and figures in respect of large-scale and small-scale industries of the province which may have to be undertaken by Government as State-owned, or quasi-Stateowned. The Government decided that for the present textile, paper, and sugar industry should be taken up and accordingly have placed orders for machineries, etc., from abroad.

In Assam there is no major industry except the tea industry, petrol and possibly some coal. The tea industry involves a huge capital already sunk by the private individuals and companies. It seems it will take long time before the proposition of nationalisation of the tea industry can take definite shape. As regard Nationalisation of Transport, Government are going to take very important decision soon. As an experimental measure, a route is already under Government management

But Government propose to take some routes soon in any of the following alternatives :—

(1) Those completely owned and run by Government.

(2) Those in which Railway and Government will participate.

(3) Those in which Private parties, Government and Railway will participate.

Labour

The labour problem which is closely related to industry but to which adequate attention was not given hitherto has engaged special attention of the Ministry. An Advisory Committee to suggest measures to the Government for welfare of the labourers was set up and the Government has a scheme for better housing and educational facilities for the labourers which is in process of implementation. Lot will depend on the decisions taken by Dominion Government in regard to these and allied question.

There was generally good relationship between the industry and labour. Whatever minor difference took place between the employers and the employees were amicably settled, by the Labour department of the Assam Government, in spite of the fact that both the Communists and Socialists disturbed the troubled waters.

Miscellaneous

It would not be out of place here to mention the progress that has been made by the Ministry in reference to development of hydro-electric power, river-training and drainage and embankment works. These matters are vitally connected with the progress and development of the natural wealth of the province and welfare of the people. The Ministry therefore did not lose time to command the services of special officers for examining the possibilities of hydro-electric power and else to examine the mineral wealth in Garo Hills and other parts of the province. The Government have been able to collect necessary facts and figures so far and it is expected that projects will be put through as early as they are fully ready for works being undertaken.

Government are also carrying on the Opium prohibition campaign and are determined to remove the evil. A new Act to that effect was passed and is being enforced from April 1, 1948.

United Provinces

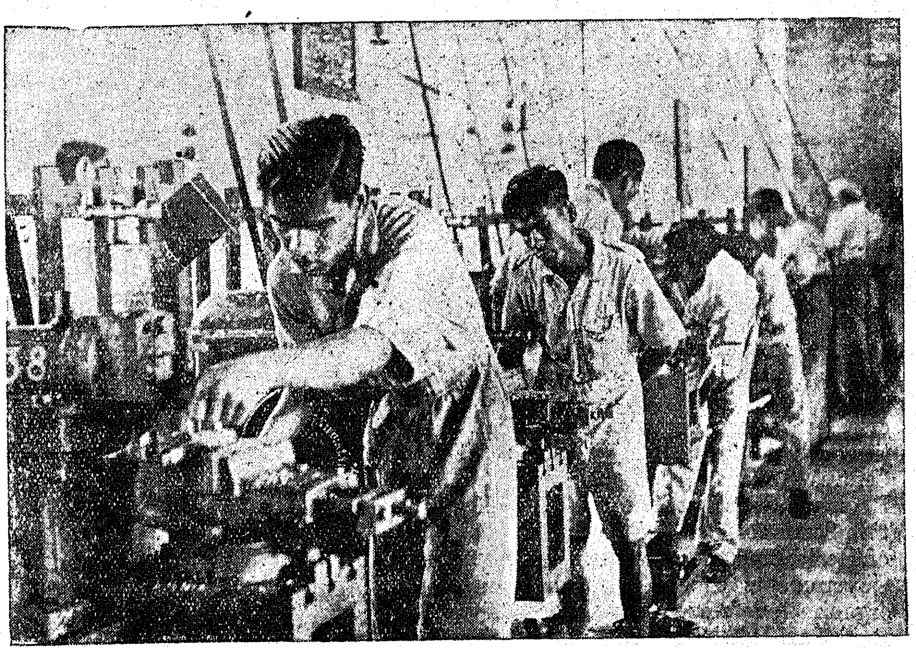
The United Provinces has made considerable strides in many fields of activity since August 15, 1947. Rural uplift is one of the main planks in the rural reconstruction programme of the Government. Every effort is being made to promote the standard of living of the common man. Steps have been taken to eliminate agricultural intermediaries. Tenants have been protected against unlawful ejectment. The tank digging drive and the compost drive have been carried out successfully. It has been estimated that that province could produce 130 crores of maunds of compost annually. Land reclamation operations are being carried out in some places. Establishment of panchayats marks the beginning of a new era of democratisation. The provision of adequate medical relief to the rural areas, has received special attention. Electricity output has been planned to be increased five-fold. The Road programme of the Government envisages among other things the construction of 6,566 miles of new metal roads. Schemes for irrigation aims at bringing 36·6 per cent of the total cultivated area under irrigation. During 1946–47, 250 miles of new canals were added. 300 miles of further canals have either been constructed or are under construction. A ten-year programme of universal education has been drawn up and it has been decided to open 2,200 schools every year. A social service training scheme has been put into operation. Under the scheme 600 graduates have just finished their training. Prohibition is also fairly under way. A special department for Harijans has been organized to promote their welfare. Removal of Social Disabilities Act, which had been passed earlier, was put into operation. Special provision has been made for the education of Harijans. The Government have decided to impart training in masonry, poultry, and basket-making to Harijan youths and work has been started in a number of districts.

Recreation Board in Bombay

A Recreation Board has been constituted by the Government for the purpose of achieving the effective co-ordination of the recreational activities conducted at present by the different departments, viz., Labour, Education and Industries and Prohibition.

Backward Classes in Bombay

All other things being equal, the candidates belonging to the Backward Classes will henceforth be given preference *vis-a-vis* others, while making recruitment to all services under the Government of Bombay. This rule will be followed in addition to the other orders issued from time to time prescribing the minimum percentages of recruitment from the members of the Intermediate and Backward Class to certain Class III and Class IV services.



A view of a typical Technical Training Centre in South India

DELHI NOTES

Fisheries Advisory Council

It is reliably learnt that the Dominion Ministry of Agriculture is setting up a Fisheries Advisory Council to advise the Government of India on fisheries research and the development of the fish industry. The Council will meet twice a year.

The Advisory Council will have the Agriculture Secretary as Chairman, the Fisheries Development Adviser or his Deputy as Secretary.

* * *

Health Ministers' Conference

"A service which is designed to provide only curative measures for the rural areas will not meet the requirements of the people and that the organization of an integrated curative and preventive health service is essential" says a Resolution, passed at the second Health Ministers' Conference, which concluded its four-day session in New Delhi yesterday. The Resolution continues, "It is urged that the whole question should be reviewed and suitable recommendations made to the Central and Provincial Governments in order to assist them in taking decisions on this important question. The appointment of a suitable committee for the purpose by the Chairman is recommended."

The Conference has made several recommendations to the Central, Provincial and State Government on various important aspects of public health. Some of the recommendations briefly are:

Governments should explore the possibility of restricting private practice by doctors in their services in successive stages; steps should be taken to ensure that the operations undertaken by the Railways, the Works Department and other Central Government authorities concerned with engineering operations do not create malariogenic conditions; a country-wide attack should be organized against eye diseases by bringing treatment facilities down to the remotest villages; the Central Government should appoint a Registrar-General of Vital and Population Statistics attached to the Ministry of Health and the Provincial and State Governments should have their own organizations under the charge of a Registrar of Vital and Population Statistics with district organizations for the registration of vital statistics, the Central Government should take early steps to create an all-India Medical Register which should include medical licentiates also; the Drugs Act should be more strictly and uniformly enforced and early steps shou d be taken under Governmental auspices to set up factories for making essential drugs and appliances in the country; health services should be expanded in the Provinces and States in order to make it possible to absorb a large part of the remaining displaced health personnel; the Provincial Governments should set up Nutrition Committees and Nutrition Units should be formed and considered as integral parts of the Health Departments at the Centre and in the Provinces; and the Provincial Governments should appoint provincial tuberculosis and leprosy officers and generally strengthen their campaign against these diseases.

The Conference expressed its gratification at the Government of India's efforts to promote, in collaboration with Provincial and State Governments the development of post-graduate education in all branches of medical science. The Conference urged expansion of facilities for the training of dentists and ancillary personnel and an enhancement of the status of the nursing profession in order to attract suitable women to this essential service.

The broad outlines of the scheme for the development of an industrial health service put forward in the "Memorandum on the Formation of an Integral Industrial Health Organization in India" was also approved by the Conference.

Cottage Industries Board

The Government of India have decided to constitute a Cottage Industries Board under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Industry and Supply. The Board will consist of representatives of Central Government, Provincial Governments, major States and Unions and of important organizations representing the interests of small-scale and cottage industries. Some non-officials will also be nominated as members of the Board.

The main features of the Board will be—

(i) To advise and assist Government on the organization and development of cottage and small-scale industries,

(ii) To examine and advise how cottage and small-scale industries can be co-ordinated with large-scale industries,

(iii) To examine the schemes of the Provincial and State Governments for the promotion of cottage and small-scale industries and to assist in co-ordinating them, and

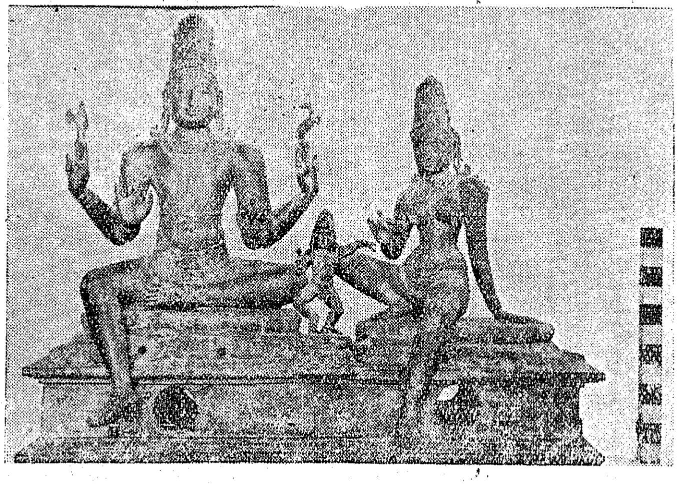
(iv) To advise the Government on the marketing of the products of cottage and small-scale industries in India and abroad.

* * *

Manufacture of Compost

During the year 1947–48 1,745,066 tons of compost were prepared from town and village refuse, said Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister of Agriculture, in a written reply to a question in the Dominion Parliament recently.

Of these, 486,080 tons were produced from 566 urban centres and 1,258,986 tons from 27,950 village centres.



Somaskanda—Vaitheeswaran Koil, Tanjore district.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

"INDIAN ART"

Edited by SIR RICHARD WINSTEDT. *Published by Faber and Faber, Limited, 24, Russel Square, London. Price 7 s. 6 p.*

This nicely got up and well-finished book is comprised of essays written by the people who know the job. Prof. H. G. Rawlinson, the well known historian, has explained in lucid terms the historical background to the growth of Indian art from the ruins of Mohenjo-Daro to the British period in India in an appealing manner arresting the unabiding interest of the reader. The contributions of J. V. S. Wilkinson, K-de-B Codrington and John Irwin on such comprehensive subjects on Indian art as Indian Painting, the Minor Arts of India and Indian Sculpture, written respectively, are sure to stir up the imagination of the world artists. Indian art is the expression of Indian thought. The philosophic implications are fully expressed in Indian Sculpture. The brotherhood of man and the gospel of reincarnation proclaimed by Buddha, aroused the intense feeling for nature and animal life which is fully displayed in the reliefs of Bharhut and Sanchi. One would agree with John Irwin when he says in his essay on "Indian Sculpture": "the treatment everywhere is full of sympathy, kindship and affection, and the theme is unique, for its period, in the history of art."

A reader will sympathize with the remark of J. V. S. Wilkinson made in his essay on 'Indian Painting' that "Indian Painting is a comparatively new discovery in Europe." Wilkinson attributes this European blindness to "the almost complete absence of art criticism by Indians themselves". It is certainly unfortunate that great Indian Philosophers of Art have not illuminated Europe with the illustrious interpretations of the Indian Paintings and sculpture, which, as a consequence, have so unjustly been underestimated and misunderstood there.

The book under review abounds in plates. There are sixteen plates of which seven are devoted to sculpture, six to painting and three to textiles and the minor arts. There are sixteen pages of halftone illustrations and twelve line drawings.

The book is sure to rouse interest in Indian art and has much to reveal to a western reader.

S.A.H.

"TOM MUNRO SAHEB."

By P. R. KRISHNASWAMI, *Higginbothams, Madras. Price* Rs. 4-8-0.

This is a short biography of Sir Thomas Munro, who was the Governor of Madras (1821-27), and whose huge equestrian statue still adorns the Mount Road. The author drew his material from Gleig's life of Munro first published in 1849 prepared from the copious papers and letters of Munro placed at Gleig's disposal immediately after the death of the hero in India in 1827. Though Munro has left many permanent marks on the Government of Madras Province during his military and civil career through a lifetime of forty-eight years, as a man of action in the suppression of misrule and as a pioneer of good government of the subjected territory, he is scarcely remembered in more recent days except for the remarkable defect left on his statue by its famous sculptor Chantrey. Munro can easily head the list of many a humane Scot to whose selfless labours Southern India owes much of the cultural uplift of its masses. The reconstruction of Munro's life from this personal aspect is quite opportune now, when we are starting life as an independent nation. The author's efforts are more laudable as the details for the picture were lying hidden in Gleig's compilation of Munro's letters. Gleig himself was a contemporary of the novelist Thackeray who was born in India and whose uncle was for long the associate of Munro. Our author claims the merit of originally identifying Munro with the character "Colonel Newcome" in Thackeray's famous novel "The Newcomes." The present work supplements the author's disquisition on the Cornhill Magazine of the close copying of Munro's personality in Colonel Newcome. Appended to this biography is a selection of Munro's letters, extracted from Gleig to illustrate the author's sketch of Munro as a patriot of India. Here is how the General Munro appeals to His Governor-General the Marquis of Hastings for placing Indians in offices of trust in the Government. After enlarging on the demerits of retaining the country in subjection, where the inhabitants cannot aspire to anything beyond a mere animal state of thriving, Munro writes :—

"There is perhaps no example of any conquest in which the natives have been so completely excluded from all share of the Government of their country as in British India."

The letters of Munro alone show a wealth of experience and originality of thought. The author deserves praise for placing these within the reach of the masses.

M.A.K.

"1947-48. THE ALL-INDIA BUSINESS DIRECTORY."

Compiled by P. J. JACOB, M.A. *Published by Messrs. M. Paul Varghese & Co., Kanjirapally, Travancore, India. Price* Rs. 45.

The task of compiling a directory of this scope is not only difficult because of the wide field to be covered and the vivid nature of information to be gathered, but also because of the rapid pace in the expansion of trades, industries and professions due to post-war demand.

The directory which runs into well over 2,000 pages is divided into

eleven sections namely, India-Pakistan, Far East, Australia, Canada, the United States, South America, Great Britain, Europe, Switzerland, Africa and the Middle East. Each section containing thousands of business addresses classified according to the subject-matter in alphabetical order. Maps of major railway systems in India and statistics of commercial production have been given.

All subjects in the entire volume have been systematically classified and arranged so as to ensure maximum usefulness to all businessmen.

M.A.K.

THE MARKET

Fortnightly Commercial Magazine Published in Madras. Price 6 annas per copy.

The name of the fortnightly indicates the nature of its contents. In the words of the Editor, the object of the magazine is to serve the mercantile community in general incorporating reliable and latest market quotations and information relating to all departments. The first issue contains a variety of commercial information. There is also an article entitled "Economics Marketing." The get-up is fairly good.

T.K.G.

"SPLENDOUR OF ISLAM"

By MUHAMMAD AMIN. *Published by Pakistan Publications, 54, Railway Road, Lahore. Price Rs. 2.*

The greatness of a race depends upon the discipline and regulations imposed by either state or religion. The regulations imposed by a State will not be so revered and scrupulously obeyed and adhered to as that by the religion. It is spiritual greatness that marks the splendour of the race. In observance of these regulations the individual acts and behaves in a manner befitting the honour and prestige of their religion. The author of the book under review, has endeavoured, to explain the rich heritage of Islam.

In this book, articles by eminent authors like Sir Philip Gibbs, Annie Besant, O. Cleveland, J. A. Froude, Lord Headley, Charles C. Adams, Lady Evelyn Cobbald, Rev. Bosworth Smith, Thomas Carlyle, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Gibbon, Dr. A. Lorand and others of different aspects of Islamic religion and society have been published.

The book will be an usual reference book to students of Islamic History and a valuable guide to others who like to explore the gems of truth from religions other than their own.

"ILLUMINATING STORIES"

By SWAMI SIVANANDA, *Published by The Sivananda Publication League, Ananda Kutir, Rishikesh (U.P.). Price Rs. 3.*

Those who are spiritually illuminated and have divine facilities try to grasp the truth and wisdom from every particle belonging to the universe and likewise from the teachings and traditions of various religions of the world. Although the forms of expression of the truth in various religions differ, yet the eternal truth is taught unaltered. The author of the book under review is a personality famous for his non-sectarian and non-communal writings. No episode in any religion, has been exaggerated or belittled. The stories comprising this book are, as the title of the book suggests, really illuminating. There are altogether seventy-nine stories on different aspects of life like Spiritual Sadhana, Guru Bhakti and Sat-Sangh. The Greatness of women and chastity, Great Acts of merits, Temptations and attachments, etc. Under each of these headings several stories are told. The book would be of immense and abiding interest for one and all.

—S.A.H.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF BRITISH BROADCASTING (1922—1948)

Published by the British Broadcasting Corporation. Price 2 shillings.

An illustrated record prepared for the Silver Jubilee Year of the British Broadcasting Corporation, this neat little brochure shows how the history of a great institution can be told in pictures—pictures that please and teach. With the crest of the B.B.C. adorning the front page with the emblazoned motto "Nation shall speak peace unto Nation," the brochure starts with a foreword by Sir William Haley, Director-General of the British Broadcasting Corporation, adapted from a broadcast given by him on 14th November, 1947. Says Sir William Haley :

"Broadcasting has its place in the life of nations, of the community, and of the individual. Its use between nations has been a mixture of good and evil. On the debit side there has been—and there still is—the out-pouring of propaganda, the ceaseless sapping and erosion of other nations' beliefs and morale, the misrepresentation and abuse of theoretically friendly Peoples, which some broadcasting systems undertake. On the credit side, there is the power of Broadcasting to pour out over the world a continuous, antiseptic flow of honest, objective, truthful news to which—as Hitler found during the war—the common man cannot permanently be denied access. On the credit side, too, there is the power of Broadcasting, without any unneighbourly purpose, to make the ways of life and thought of different peoples better known to each other."

Then starts the history of the British Broadcasting Corporation. beginning from the pioneering days of Mr. J. C. W. Smith, right to the present all told in delightful pictures. A series of photographs showing the microphone 'at the Aldershot Tatoo,' 'Abroad the QUEEN MARY,' 'With Mac at the Zoo,' 'with Lyle at the Oaks' show the potentialities of the radio to bring to the hearths word-pictures of what is happening abroad. Latest technical developments in the control rooms and technical aids for co-ordinating multi-studio programmes are all there, explained and illustrated. Priced at 2 shillings this brochure is a useful publication both for the layman and the specialist.

K.B.N.

Rural Programmes

With effect from 1st October 1948 special programme for villages will be broadcast from the A.I.R., Tiruchirapalli between 6-15 p.m. and 7 p.m. daily.

Tractor has come to stay

The picture shows a tractor in operation under the auspices of the North Vizagapatam District Agricultural Improvement Co-operative Society

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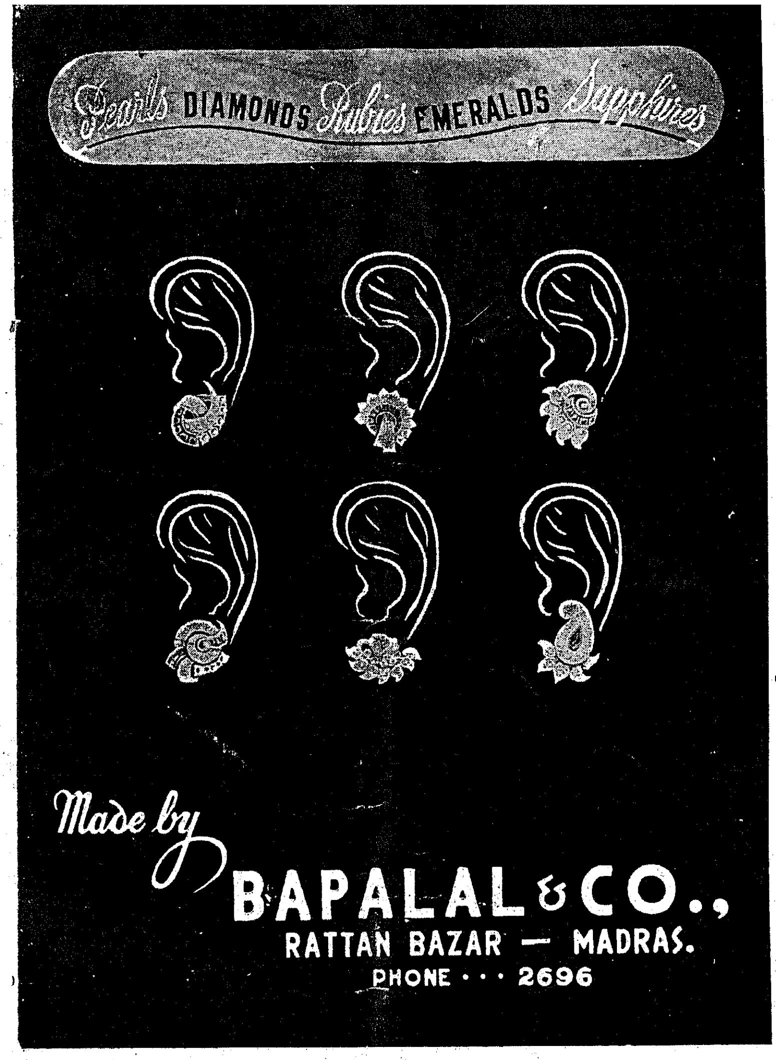

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